

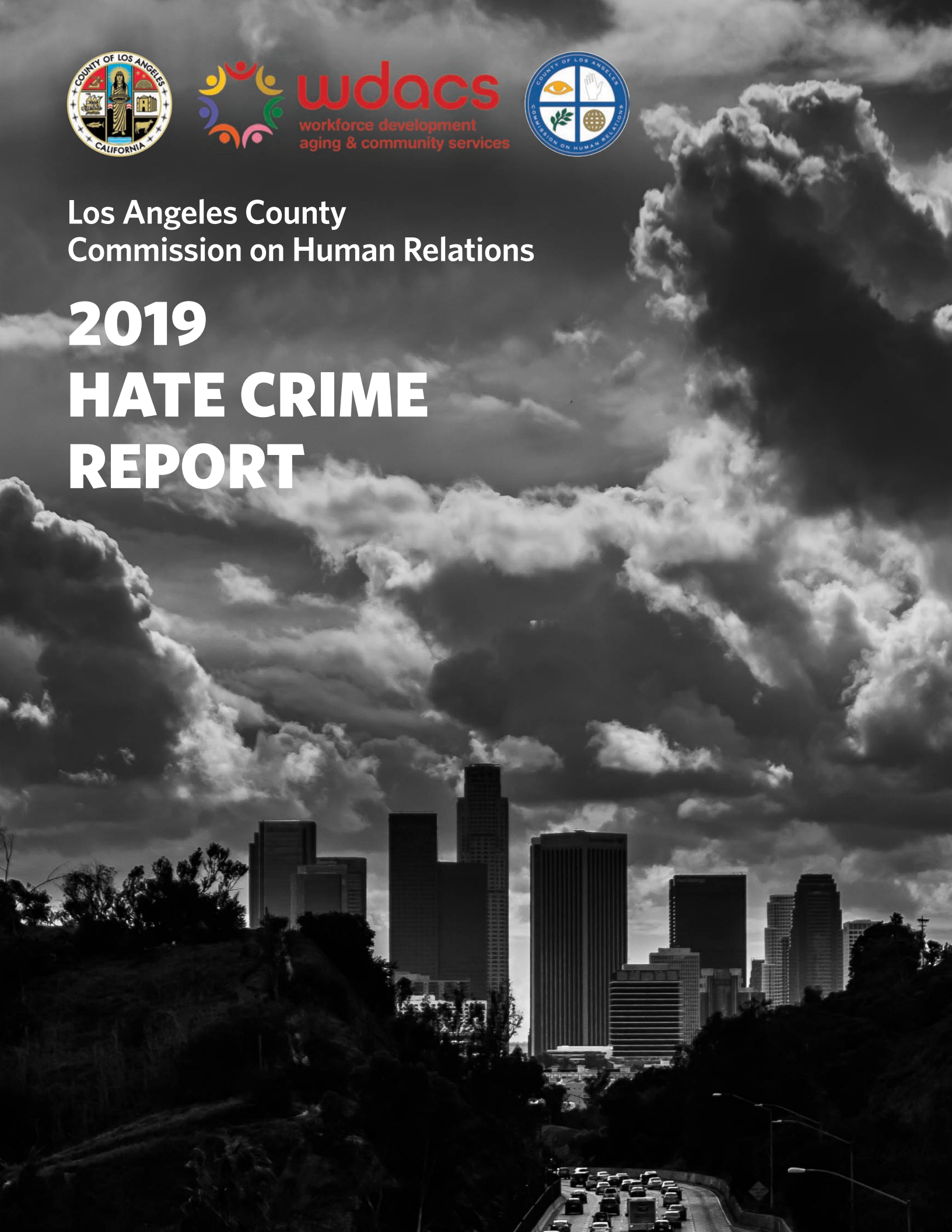


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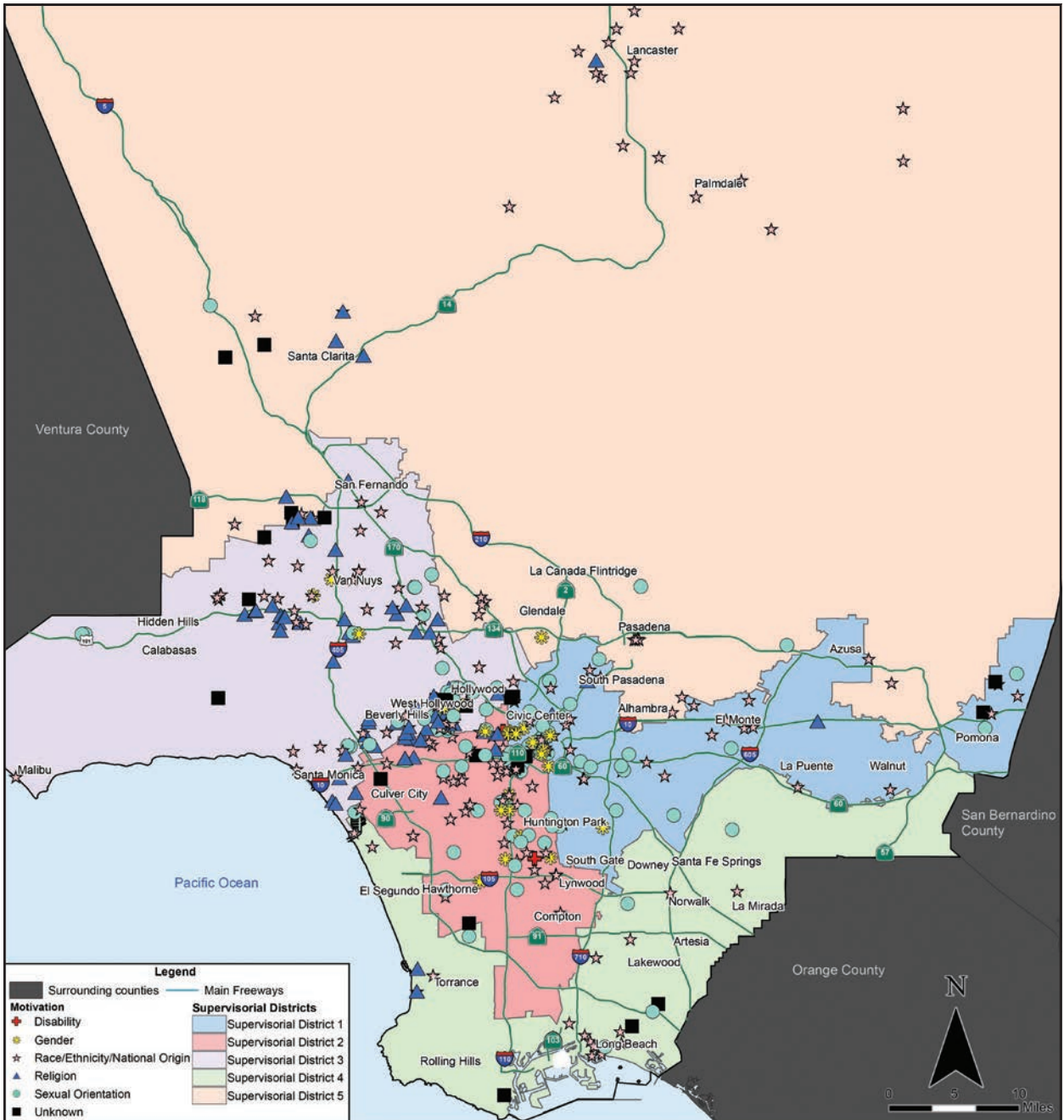


Los Angeles County
Commission on Human Relations

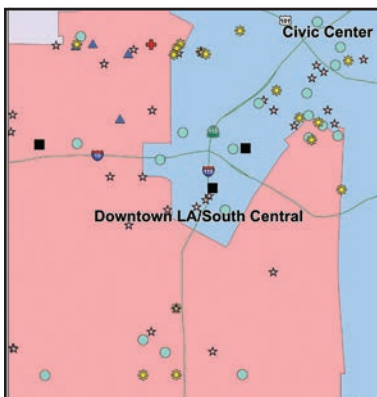
2019 HATE CRIME REPORT



2019 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes



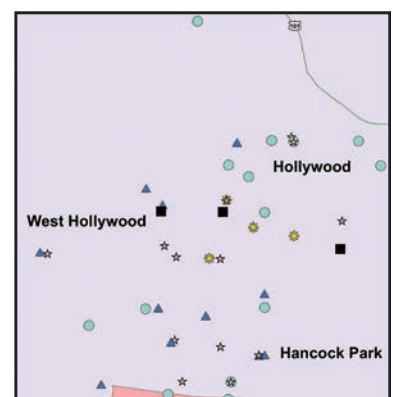
Central/South Central L.A.



San Fernando Valley



Hollywood/West Hollywood



In addition to the hate crimes shown on these maps, there are crimes that are not displayed due to insufficient address information.

Maps by Florentino Bernal Jr.

2019 HATE CRIME REPORT



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Preface

Since 1980, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations has compiled, analyzed, and produced an annual report of hate crime data submitted by sheriff and city police agencies, educational institutions, and community-based organizations.

Using information from the report, the Commission sponsors a number of ongoing programs related to preventing and combating hate crime, including the Network Against Hate Crime and the LA vs Hate program. L.A. County is one of the best trained jurisdictions in hate crime investigation and prosecution, and the Commission produces one of the longest-standing reports in the nation documenting hate crime.

The report has been disseminated broadly to policy-makers, law enforcement agencies, educators, and community groups throughout Los Angeles County and across the nation in order to better inform efforts to prevent, detect, report, investigate, and prosecute hate crimes.

What is a Hate Crime?

According to California state law, hate crime charges may be filed when there is evidence that bias, hatred, or prejudice based on the victim's real or perceived race/ethnicity, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, gender, or sexual orientation is a substantial factor in the commission of the offense.

This definition is codified in the California penal code sections 422.55 to 422.95 pertaining to hate crime. Evidence of such bias, hatred, or prejudice can be direct or circumstantial. It can occur before, during, or after the commission of the offense.

Hate speech is a criminal offense when the perpetrator has threatened violence with spoken or written words against a specific person or group of persons. The threat must be immediate, unconditional and unequivocal. It must also cause the victim sustained fear. Frequently, derogatory words or epithets are directed against a member of a protected class, but no violence is threatened. Such hate incidents are important indicators of intergroup tensions. They are not, however, criminal offenses. Such language is protected by free speech rights set forth in the California and U.S. constitutions.

Graffiti is a hate crime when it is disparaging to a class of people protected by hate crime laws. This is most often indicated by the use of epithets or hate group symbols or slogans. To be a hate crime, graffiti must be directed at a specific target. For example, racial graffiti on a freeway overpass that does not address itself to a particular person is vandalism, and therefore illegal, but probably not considered a hate crime. Vandalism of a house of worship or of an ethnic, religious, or gay and lesbian organization may be investigated as a hate crime in the absence of evidence of other motives.

Underreporting of Hate Crimes

The U.S. Department of Justice reported that 54% of hate-motivated incidents, including hate crimes, were not reported to law enforcement during 2011-2015.* This result was obtained from the department's Bureau of Justice Statistics National Crime Victimization Survey. According to the survey, most of the incidents were not reported to law enforcement because they were handled in another way.

In addition, survey respondents identified the following beliefs as other reasons hate-motivated incidents were not reported to law enforcement:

- Incident was not important enough to be reported to police
- There was nothing police could do to help
- Police would not want to be bothered or to get involved
- Reporting the incident would bring more trouble for the victim

Other factors that may inhibit victims from reporting hate crimes include fear of retaliation, cultural and linguistic isolation, unfamiliarity with the criminal justice system, and previous negative experiences with law enforcement. For LGBT hate crime victims who are not "out" to their families, employers or neighbors there may also be fear of unwanted publicity that would disclose their sexual orientations or gender identities.

It is important to keep in mind, as well, that there is not consistent uniformity in the ways that law enforcement agencies identify hate crime. This may be due to a variety of reasons. There are differences in priorities and training among different agencies, for example. Crimes with multiple motivations or involving gangs may not be formally identified as hate crimes. There is an additional burden on investigating detectives to identify and confirm evidence of hate motivation. Hate-motivated violence that occurs in schools, jails, and juvenile detention facilities, including large-scale racial brawls, may not be formally identified as hate crimes. In some cases, there may be reluctance to contribute to possible negative publicity for a neighborhood or municipality.

It is reasonable, therefore, to conclude that the hate crimes documented in this report likely represent only a portion of hate crimes actually committed in 2019.

*U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Special Report: Hate Crime Victimization Statistical Tables, 2014 - 2015* June 2017.

Hate Crime and Human Rights

Hate crimes are not only illegal under state and federal laws, they also violate human rights as defined by the international community.

In the aftermath of World War II, leaders from many nations came together in 1948 to establish the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Among the principles included in this declaration are affirmations that all human beings are equal in dignity and rights and no one is to be subject to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Groups and nations around the world continue to work diligently to turn the UDHR's powerful principles into action.

Since 1965, the U.S. and 176 other nations have signed the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), which compels signatory nations to combat racial and national origin discrimination. Under this treaty, hate crimes are considered serious human rights abuses. The CERD Committee has stressed that government action as well as inaction can violate CERD, and there is no excuse for complacency or indifference by a government toward either public or private discrimination, particularly when it involves violence.

When the U.S. and 167 other nations signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), they committed to respect and fulfill the right to life and the security of the person regardless of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status.

The U.S. Constitution states that the Constitution and treaties are the supreme law of the land. Thus, all levels of government in the U.S. – including counties, cities, and school districts – and individuals have a duty to uphold these treaty obligations to address discrimination in any form, including hate crime.

Human Rights First (www.humanrightsfirst.org/discrimination) suggests the following strategies for responding to hate crime:

- Acknowledge and condemn hate crimes whenever they occur. Senior leaders should send immediate, strong, public, and consistent messages that violent hate crimes—including against migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers—will be investigated thoroughly and prosecuted to the full extent of the law.
- Strengthen enforcement and prosecute offenders. Governments should ensure that those responsible for hate crimes are held accountable under the law and that the prosecution of hate crimes against any individuals regardless of their legal status in the country is a priority for the criminal justice system.
- Develop educational and transformative approaches, particularly restorative justice mechanisms, for hate crime offenders. Governments need to use effective methods to heal communities and reduce recidivism.
- Monitor and report on hate crimes. Governments should maintain official systems of monitoring and public reporting to provide accurate data for informed policy decisions to combat hate crimes.
- Reach out to community groups. Governments should conduct outreach and education to communities to reduce fear and assist victims, advance police-community relations, encourage improved reporting of hate crimes to the police, and improve the quality of data collection by law enforcement bodies.

2019 Quick Facts



Hate crimes remained **virtually unchanged**, increasing from 523 to 524 in 2019. However, this represents a **36% increase** since hitting a 30-year low in 2013.



Crimes targeting **African Americans, Latino/as and whites decreased**, but **anti-Asian crimes grew 32%** and **anti-Middle Eastern crimes rose 142%**.



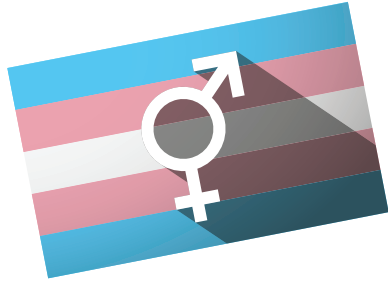
Racial hate crimes declined 9% and comprised **49% of all hate crimes. 47% targeted African Americans.**



Sexual orientation crimes dropped 22% and made up 19% of the total. 85% of these crimes targeted gay men.



There were **48 crimes** in which the suspects used specifically **anti-immigrant language**. This is the second largest number of crimes reported with such slurs since this report started tracking xenophobic slurs in 2001.



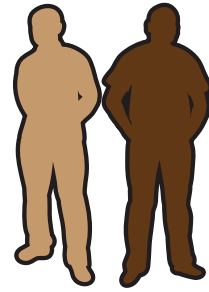
Anti-transgender crimes rose 64% from 25 to 41, the largest number ever reported.



Violent hate crimes grew from 61% to 65%, the highest rate reported since 2008. 93% percent of gender-motivated crimes were of a violent nature, followed by sexual orientation (79%), race (75%), and religion (32%).



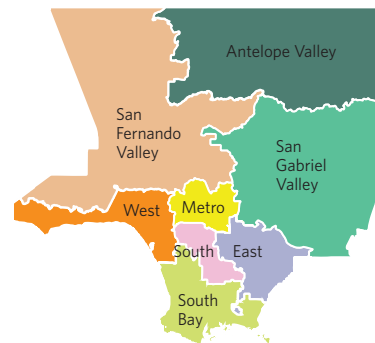
After declining two years in a row, **white supremacist crimes jumped 38%**.



Hate crimes committed by gang members declined 37%. Anti-African American crimes committed by gang members plummeted 72%.



Religious crimes grew 11% and constituted 19% of all hate crimes. 89% were anti-Semitic.



The largest number of hate crimes took place in the Metro Service Planning Area (SPA) followed by the San Fernando Valley SPA. However, if one accounts for population, the Metro SPA had the highest rate followed by the West SPA.

Executive Summary

The Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (Commission) has produced an annual Hate Crime Report since 1980, one of the longest running reports of its kind in the nation. Hate crimes are serious violations of state, federal, and international law. The Commission collects reports from every law enforcement agency in Los Angeles County, as well as from some colleges, school districts, and community-based organizations, and directly from victims (see *Reporting Agencies*).

Yet, hate crimes documented in this and other reports represent only a portion of hate crimes actually committed in 2019. The U.S. Justice Department reported in 2017 that more than half of all hate-motivated incidents, including hate crimes, were not reported to law enforcement during 2011-2015 (see *Underreporting of Hate Crimes*).

Significant findings of this report include:

- **There were 524 hate crimes reported in the County in 2019**, compared to 523 the previous year. This is the largest number reported since 2009. For the past 6 years, hate crimes have been trending upwards and since 2013 there has been a 36% rise (see *2019 Hate Crimes in Perspective*).
- **The overall rate of violence increased from 61% to 65%**, the highest rate reported since 2007 (see *2019 Hate Crimes in Perspective*).
- **Anti-transgender crimes increased 64%** from 25 to 41, the largest number ever reported. Ninety-three percent were of a violent nature (see *A Closer Look at Gender Hate Crimes*).
- After declining 2 years in a row, **hate crimes containing evidence of white supremacist ideology increased 38%** in 2019, constituting 22% of all hate crimes. Seventy percent of these were acts of vandalism (see *2019 Hate Crimes in Perspective*).
- **African Americans were again the largest group of victims.** African Americans only comprise 9% of L.A. County residents but make up 47% of racial hate crime victims. African Americans were also over-represented as victims of sexual orientation and anti-transgender crimes (see *A Closer Look at Racial Hate Crimes*).
- **Religious crimes grew 11% from 97 to 105** and comprised 19% of all hate crimes. The overwhelming majority (89%) of these crimes were anti-Jewish (see *A Closer Look at Religious Crimes*).
- **After rising for 4 years, anti-Latino/a* crimes declined 22%** and constituted 25% of all racial hate crimes. Latino/as were the most likely of any racial/ethnic group to be victims of violent racially-motivated crime (88%). Suspects used anti-immigrant slurs in 48% of these cases (see *A Closer Look at Racial Hate Crimes*).
- **Crimes targeting gay men, lesbians, and LGBT organizations declined 22%** and comprised 19% of all reported hate crimes. Gay men were targeted in 84% of these crimes. Seventy-nine percent of these crimes were of a violent nature, a rate higher than those motivated by race (75%) or religion (32%) (see *A Closer Look at Sexual Orientation Crimes*).
- **There were 48 crimes in which the suspects used specifically anti-immigrant language.** This is the second largest number of crimes reported with such slurs since this report started tracking xenophobic slurs in 2001.
- **The largest number of hate crimes took place in the Metro Service Planning Area (SPA)** followed by the San Fernando Valley SPA. The Metro SPA had the highest rate followed by the West SPA (see *Hate Crimes by Service Planning Area*).
- **Hate crimes committed by gang members declined 37%.** Anti-black crimes committed by gang members fell 72% (see *2019 Hate Crimes in Perspective*).

By providing the extensive information contained in this report on hate crimes in Los Angeles County, the Commission helps law enforcement as well as educational, community, governmental, and faith-based agencies to more effectively prevent and respond to this serious violation of human rights.

*In traditional Spanish, the masculine noun "Latino" is used to refer to men and women of Latin American heritage. "Latino/a" is an alternative term that is more gender-inclusive.

2019 Hate Crimes in Perspective

The release of this report coincides with several unprecedented events:

- A pandemic that has taken the lives of more than 200,000 Americans and sparked a backlash against Asians who have been blamed for the spread of coronavirus. A website (stopaapihate.com) created by the Asian Pacific Planning and Policy Council (A3PCON) and Chinese for Affirmative Action documented nearly 1,900 incidents of verbal harassment, shunning, physical assaults, and discrimination between its official launch on March 19, 2020 and May 13, 900 cases in California alone.
- An unprecedented outpouring of grassroots political protest sparked by Black Lives Matter in the aftermath of the May 25 choking death by police officers of George Floyd, a 46-year-old African American man in Minneapolis. Literally millions of Americans of all backgrounds have taken to the streets protesting his death and those of other unarmed African Americans. As a result, in a matter of a few weeks terms like “white supremacy and privilege,” and “systemic racism” previously used mainly by activists entered the lexicon of mainstream journalists and elected officials.
- A bitter Presidential Election that reflects deep divisions and racial and political polarization.

It is important to keep in mind, though, that this report exclusively covers calendar year 2019. The impact of these current events will be more apparent in next year’s report on 2020 hate crimes.

Hate Crimes Remain Elevated in Los Angeles County

Reported hate crime in Los Angeles County increased by a single case in 2019, from 523 to 524. Although this was the largest total reported since 2009, hate crimes have been flattening over the past few years. The previous year they rose only 2.9%. The number of hate crimes had been declining for many years and hit a 23 year-low in 2013 but has been slowly rising since then. The 524 hate crimes reported in 2019 represented a 36% increase since 2013, but it’s important to note that the greatest growth occurred between 2013-16, prior to President Trump taking office. Still, the 2019 count is well below the numbers reported most years between 1990 and 2009 (see table on page 10).

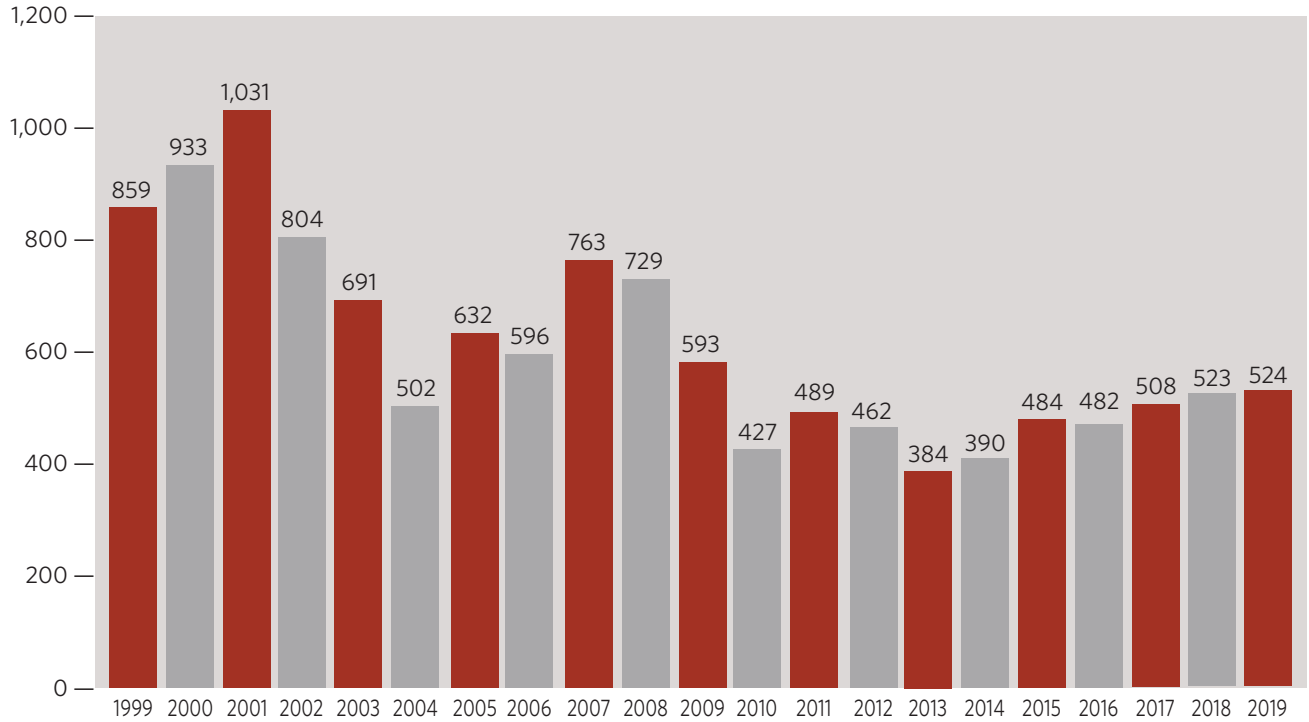
By contrast, the California State Attorney General reported that the number of hate crime events* through-out the state decreased 4.8% from 1,066 in 2018 to 1,015 in 2019. Interestingly, the number of hate crime victims in California grew 0.8% percent from 1,237 to 1,247.

At the time of this report’s publication, the FBI had not released national hate crime statistics for 2019.

It can be helpful to consider the number of hate crimes in the context of overall crime statistics. With regard to general crime statistics, the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department documented a 6% decline in Part I crime and a 6% increase in Part II crime in 2019. The Los Angeles Police Department documented a 6% decrease in Part I crime and a 7% decline in Part II crime. Part I Crimes, as defined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), are: criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny theft, grand theft auto, and arson. Part II Crimes, as defined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), include: sex offenses (both felonies and misdemeanors), non-aggravated assaults, weapons laws, disorderly conduct, and vandalism.

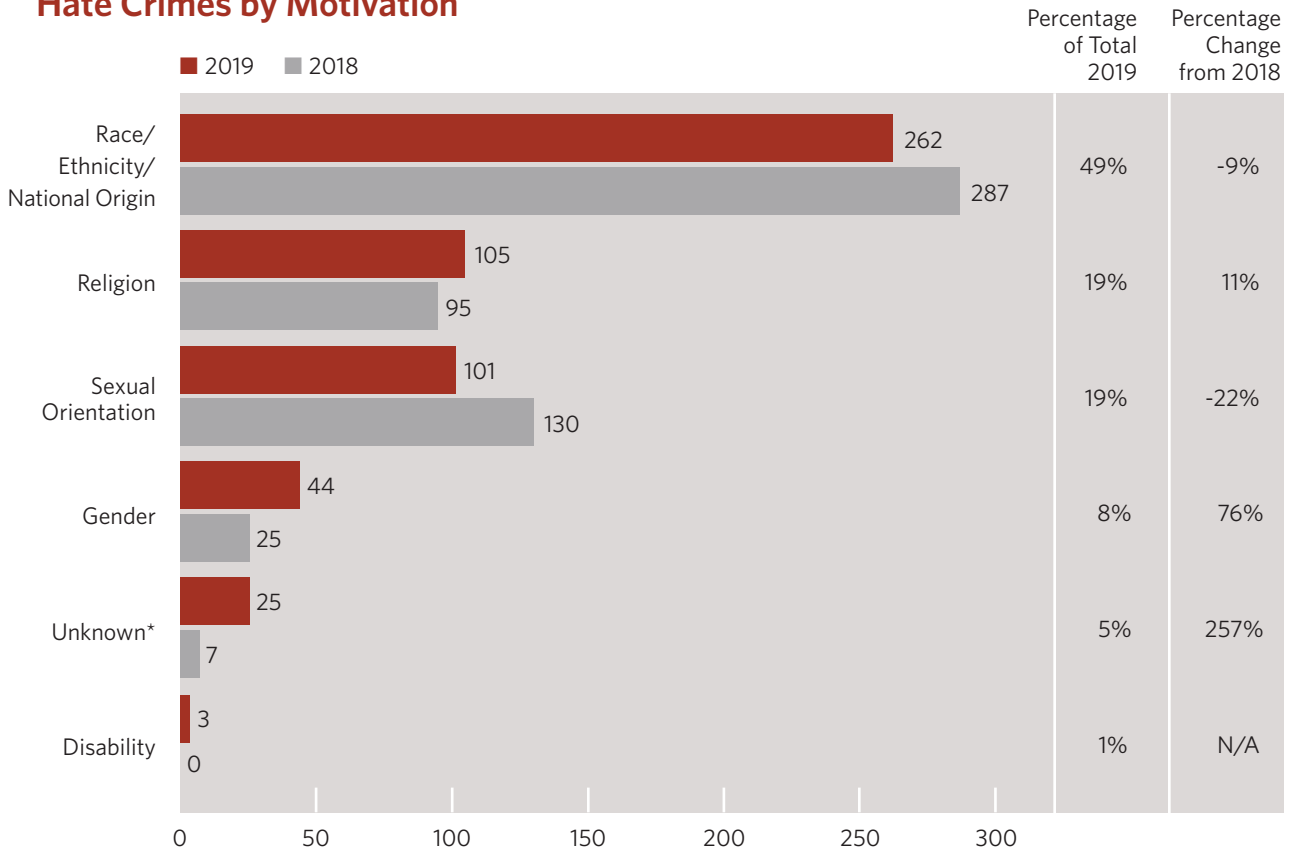
*As stated in the Methodology section, this report counts the number of hate crime victims, not events.

Total Number of Reported Hate Crimes by Year



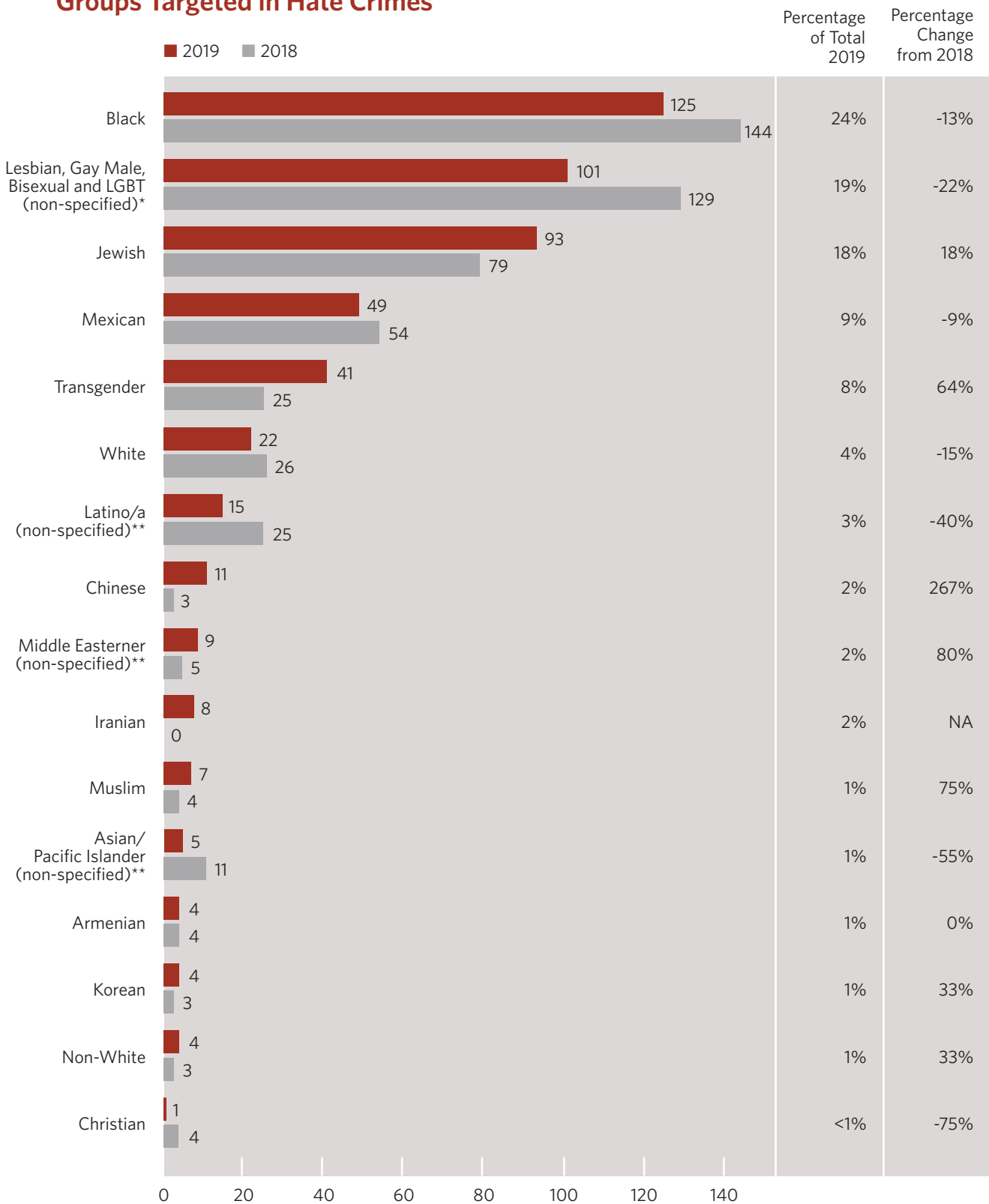
Reported hate crimes rose in the 1990s, following adoption of legislation by the California State legislature in 1989 that mandated law enforcement to record and report hate crimes.

Hate Crimes by Motivation



* These were primarily cases of vandalism that used hate symbols and the motivation could not be determined. Note: Some cases contained multiple motivations. The total number of motivations does not equal the total number of hate crime.

Groups Targeted in Hate Crimes

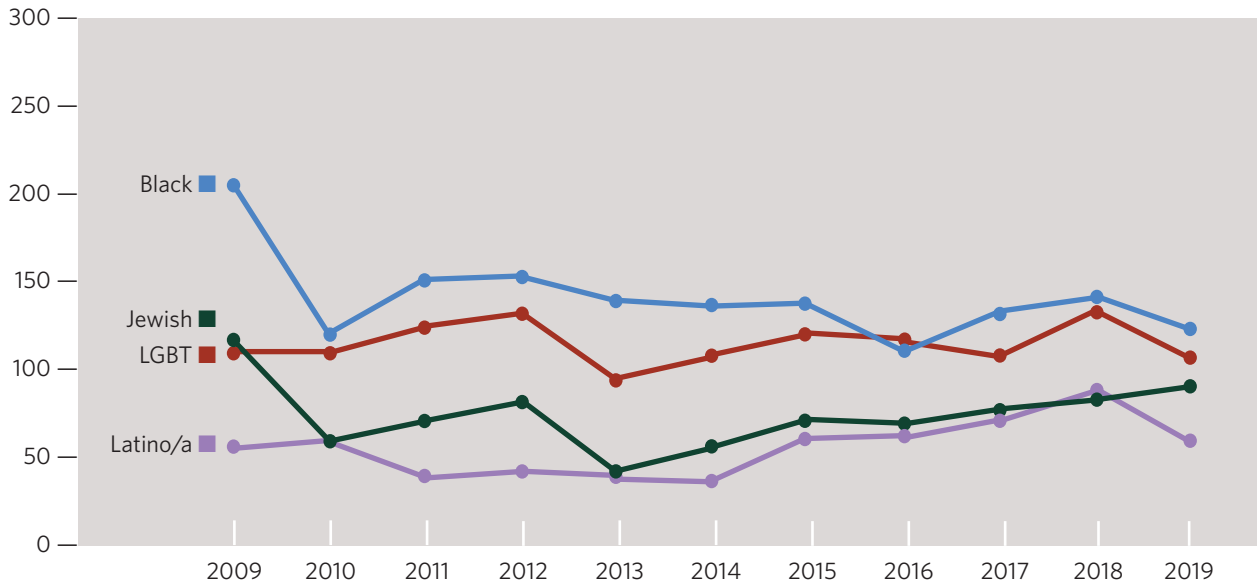


In 2019 there were 3 cases targeting Africans, females, and Asian Indians, 2 cases targeting Catholics, Guatemalans and persons with physical disabilities, and single crimes that targeted American Indian/Alaska Natives, Japanese, persons with mental disabilities, Mormons/Latter Day Saints, Romani/Gypsies, Russians, Scientologists, and non-specified South Asians.

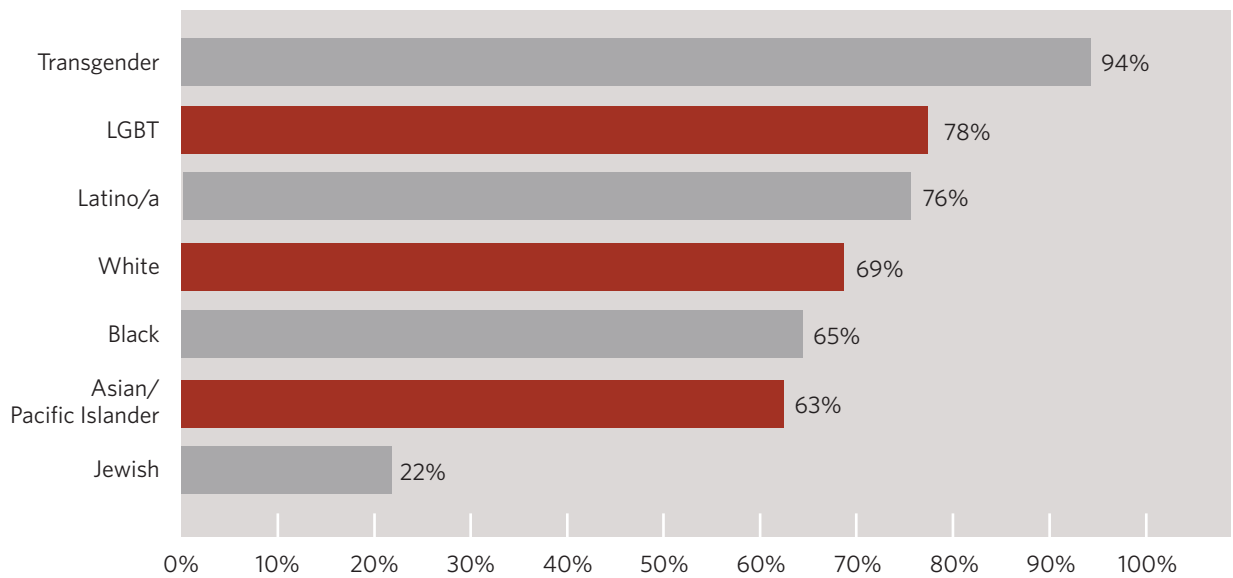
* "LGBT non-specified" refers to hate crimes that targeted an LGBT organizations or businesses, not an individual.

** "Non-specified" crimes targeting Asians, Latino/as, and Middle Easterner refer to crimes in which these groups were targeted but there were no slurs made against a specific nationality (e.g. Chinese, Mexicans, Iranians).

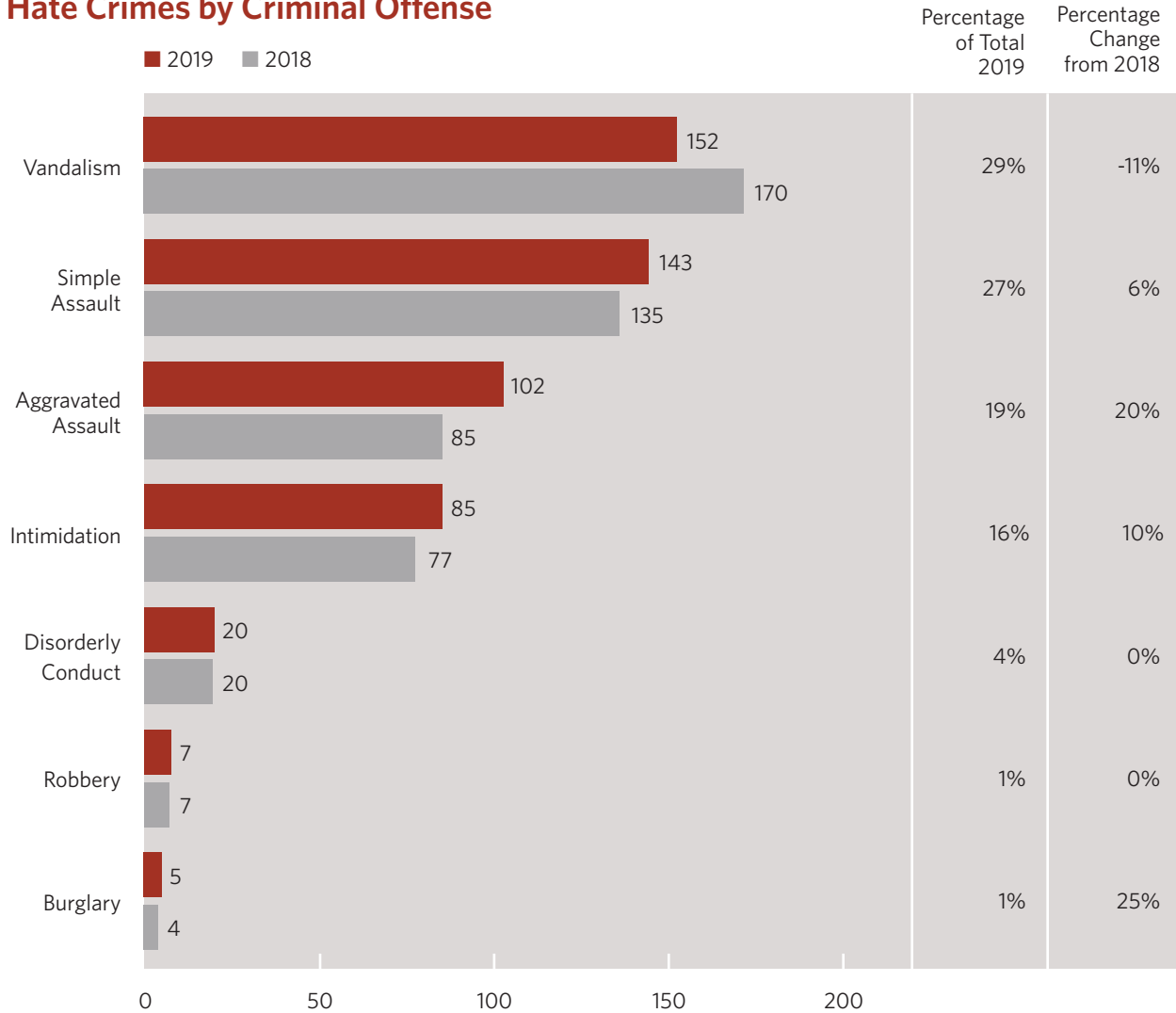
2009-2019 Hate Crimes: Most Frequently Targeted Groups



2015-2019 Hate Crimes: Average Rates of Violence Against Selected Groups



Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense



In 2019, there were also 3 cases of trespassing, 2 cases of arson and sexual assault, and single cases of attempted murder, and theft.

Racial and Sexual Orientation Crimes Decline but Religious and Gender Crimes Rise

The distribution of hate crimes based on motivation shifted slightly from the patterns of the previous five years. Crimes based on real or perceived race, ethnicity, or national origin* remained by far the largest category, constituting 49% of all hate crimes, compared to 53% the previous year. Racial hate crimes declined 9% from 287 to 262. Throughout the history of this report, sexual orientation crimes have nearly always been the second largest motivation category, but in 2019 religious crimes exceeded them. Religious crimes grew 8% from 95 to 105 and comprised 19% of all hate crimes. Sexual orientation crimes dropped 22% from 130 to 101 and because of rounded numbers also made up 19% of the total (down from 24%). Gender-based crimes constituted the fourth largest group (8%) and grew 76% from 25 to 44. This was the largest number of gender-motivated crimes in this report’s history. Forty-one of these crimes targeted transgender persons and 3 were anti-female. There were 3 disability crimes compared to none the previous year. There were also 25 crimes in which the motive was undetermined (up from 7). These cases most commonly were swastikas painted on the property of white, non-Jewish victims. It is possible that these acts of vandalism were random and did not target any of the property owners. These crimes could also have been cases of mistaken identity. This report classifies these crimes as having “unknown” motivation.

*For the sake of brevity, we refer to crimes motivated by race, ethnicity, or national origin as “racial” hate crimes throughout this report.

As in the past, the great majority of hate crimes (73%) targeted four groups: African Americans, gay men/lesbians/LGBT organizations, Jewish persons, and Latino/as. The previous year these four groups constituted 83% of all victims. Each of these communities experienced decreases except anti-Jewish crimes, which rose 18% from 79 to 93. This is the largest number of anti-Semitic hate crimes reported since 2009.

Of the smaller groups of victims, a few experienced increases in hate crimes. Anti-transgender crimes rose 64% from 25 to 41, the largest number ever reported. Anti-Asian crimes grew 32% from 19 to 25 and anti-Middle Eastern crimes grew 143% from 7 to 17 (including 1 case that had 5 victims).

As mentioned in the Methodology section, fluctuations in numbers from year to year are common and don't necessarily indicate trends. It is more useful to study multi-year analyses to get an accurate picture of hate crime in Los Angeles County.

Highest Rate of Violence since 2007

The most common criminal offense reported in 2018 was vandalism (29%) followed by simple assaults (27%), aggravated assaults (19%), and acts of intimidation (16%). These 4 offenses comprised 92% of all hate crimes, similar to earlier years. The biggest changes were that aggravated assaults grew 20% and acts of vandalism dropped 11%.

For the second year in a row the percentage of hate crimes that were of a violent nature rose. They grew from 61% to 65%. This is the highest rate of violence reported since 2007, and the 343 violent crimes reported in 2019 is the largest number since 2008. In 2018, there were no murders but there was 1 attempted murder.

- In Lancaster, a Latino male was arguing with another Latino male on a bus. A black male victim asked the suspect to stop. The suspect replied, "What are you going to do about it, Nigger?" The two began to argue and started fighting. The suspect pinned the victim to the front windshield of the bus, pulled out a knife and stabbed the victim multiple times in the face while calling him a "Nigger." The suspect was arrested by sheriff's deputies. The victim was transported to a hospital with several deep lacerations in his head, neck and face.

As in previous years, there were dramatically different rates of violence based on motivation. Ninety-three percent of gender-motivated crimes were violent, followed by sexual orientation (79%), race (75%), and religion (32%). Racial crimes saw the largest jump in the rate of violence from 64% to 75%.

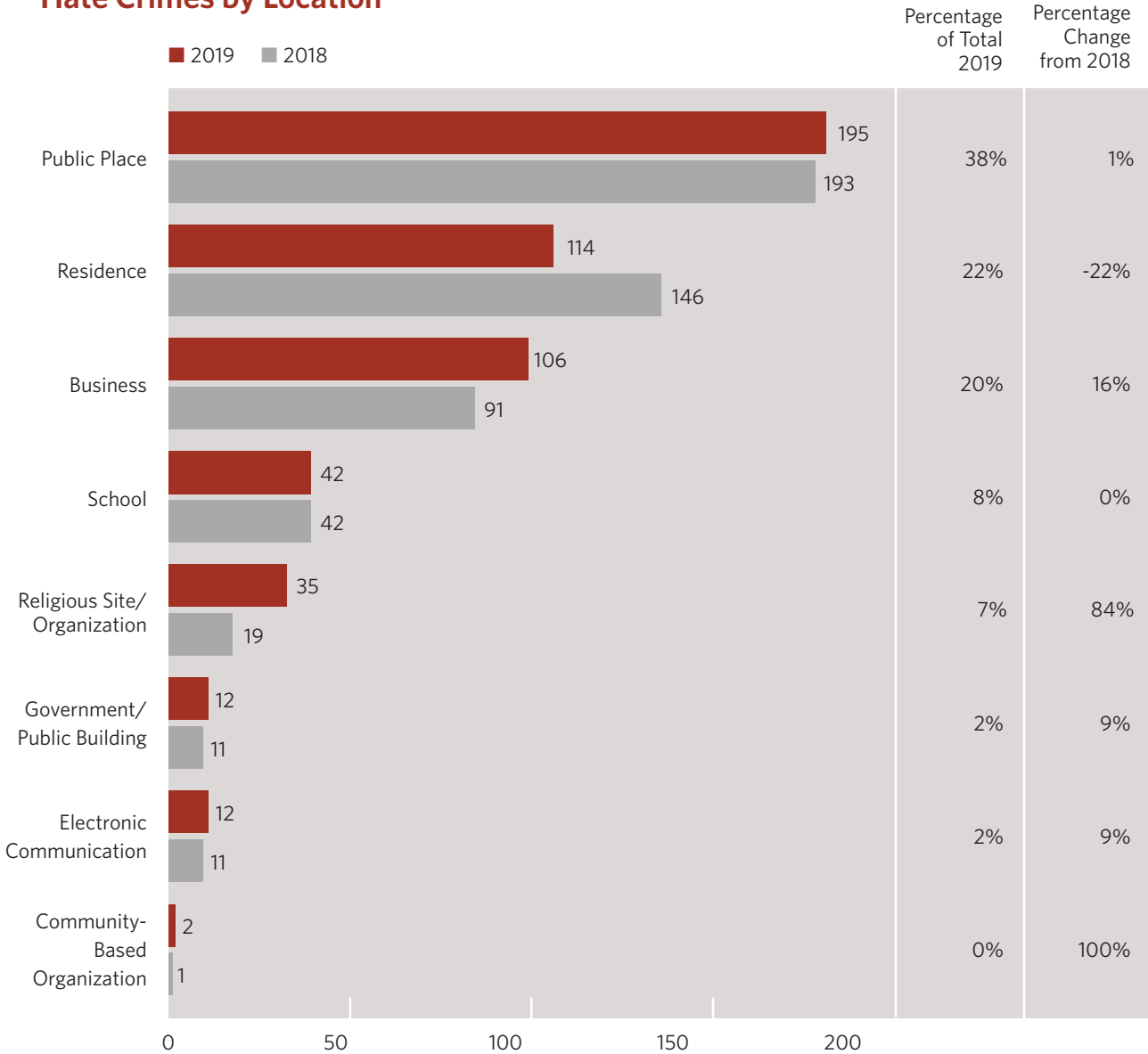
Hate Crimes Most Common in Public Places

The largest number of hate crimes occurred in public places (38%), followed by residences (22%), businesses (20%), schools (8%), and religious sites (7%). The distribution was similar to the previous year but hate crimes in religious sites increased 84% from 19 to 35. Hate crimes at residences declined 22% from 146 to 114.

Metro Region Again Has Highest Rate of Hate Crimes

The largest number of hate crimes (124) reported in 2019 took place in the Metro Service Planning Area (SPA) Region IV (which stretches from West Hollywood to Boyle Heights) followed by San Fernando Valley SPA Region II (95). The previous year the largest number occurred in the San Fernando Valley SPA. However, if one compares the populations of the regions to the numbers of reported hate crimes, the Metro SPA had the highest rate followed by West SPA Region V (which includes Beverly Hills, Culver City and a number of affluent beach

Hate Crimes by Location



communities). These two regions have had the highest rates for several years in a row. The region with the lowest number of hate crimes (16) was the East SPA Region VII (which includes cities such as Huntington Park, South Gate, and Whittier) followed by the Antelope Valley Region 1 (21). The areas with the lowest rates of hate crime were the East SPA followed by San Gabriel SPA Region III. This geographic distribution is similar to previous years.

As stated earlier, African Americans, gay men/lesbians/LGBT organizations, Jewish persons, and Latino/as were targeted in 74% of all reported hate crimes in 2019. The San Gabriel and East SPAs have extremely low numbers of black residents, LGBT-oriented businesses, and Jewish religious sites or businesses. This could account for the lower rates of hate crimes reported in those areas. More information on geographic distribution of reported hate crimes is provided in Appendix A.

White Supremacist Crime Jumped 38%

This report has tracked hate crime in which there is evidence of white supremacist ideology since 2004. Usually, these are crimes in which swastikas and other hate symbols are used in graffiti. Occasionally a suspect will yell out a white supremacist slogan or self-identify as a skinhead or member of a specific hate group.

In 2016, the year of the last presidential election, white supremacist crimes rose 67% in Los Angeles County from 63 to 105. They then declined 11% in 2017 and another 10% in 2018. In 2019, white supremacist crimes jumped 38% from 84 to 116. They grew from 16% to 22% of all hate crimes. There was evidence of white supremacist belief systems in 47% of all religious crimes and 16% of racial crimes.

The largest group of white supremacist crimes were motivated by religion (53%), followed by race (44%) and sexual orientation (3%). It should be noted that these percentages do not include white supremacist crimes in which the motivation was unknown. These would include crimes in which a hate symbol was left on public or private property but it was unclear what group was being targeted.

Jewish persons were the most frequently targeted group (51%), followed by African Americans (28%) and Latino/as (6%). The increase in anti-black white supremacist crimes was 23%.

The great majority of these crimes were acts of vandalism (70%), followed by acts of intimidation (11%) and disorderly conduct and aggravated assaults (7% each). Acts of disorderly conduct include cases in which swastikas are drawn on private property but do not constitute vandalism because they are easily removable and leave no permanent damage. The rate of violence in white supremacist crimes grew from 10% to 21%.

Residences were the most common location (25%), followed closely by public places (24%), schools (22%), businesses (15%), and religious sites (7%).

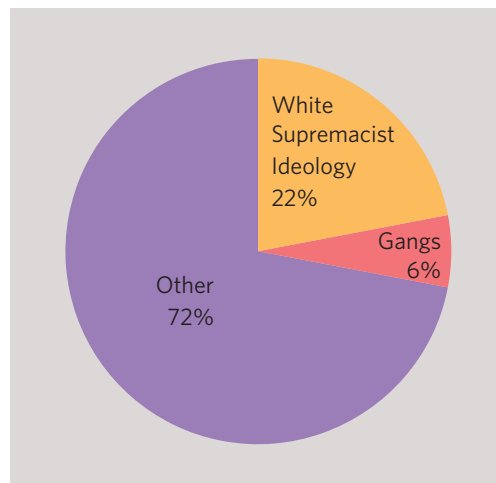
Crimes Related to Terrorism or Conflict in the Middle East

Since the attacks on September 11, 2001, this report has examined hate crimes in which the perpetrators used language that blamed the victims for terrorism or ongoing conflict in the Middle East. During the period immediately following 9/11, there were 188 reported anti-Muslim/Middle Eastern hate crimes committed in Los Angeles County. Since that time, crimes fitting this profile have plummeted locally even though Muslims, South Asians, and Middle Easterners still report harassment, racial/religious profiling, and discrimination. However, in recent years, several reports have been issued that suggest there is a rise in Islamophobia. For example, the FBI reported anti-Muslim hate crimes in the United States rose 67%, from 154 to 257 in 2015, the highest number since 9/11.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, issued a report showing anti-Muslim acts (non-criminal) rose 83% and anti-Muslim hate crimes rose 21% nationwide in the second quarter (April-June) of 2018, as compared to the first quarter.

But surprisingly, crimes reported in LA County in which there was specific language regarding terrorism and/or unrest in the Middle East decreased from 14 to 3 the previous year and in 2019 the number did not change. The three crimes reported were actually 2 cases, 1 involving 2 victims. The following is a description of 1 of those cases:

Hate Crimes Involving Gangs or White Supremacist Ideology



In 2019, 4 cases were both gang-related and had evidence of white supremacist ideology.

- Two victims received a letter at their business that stated “(You) bring your filth immoral Muslim Jihad hate!” It also stated “We know you are dishonest, cheat our community and want to be here for terrorism. You are being watched ...You’re going to die.” The letter also included racial slurs such as “Sand Nigger” and “Camel jockey.”

In addition to the three crimes that specifically referenced Middle East conflict, there were nine other anti-Muslim and/or anti-Middle Eastern crimes. Although these contained no specific slurs like “terrorist,” it is possible that the perpetrators were motivated by such sentiments.

Hate Crimes Between African Americans and Latino/as

The great majority of African Americans and Latino/as in Los Angeles County co-exist peacefully and are not involved in ongoing racial conflict. However, for many years this report has documented that most hate crimes targeting African Americans are committed by Latino/as and vice versa. This is particularly true in neighborhoods that have undergone rapid demographic shifts from being primarily black to majority Latino/a. Another factor driving this phenomenon is the large number of Latino/a street gangs which have ties to the Mexican Mafia, the largest and most violent prison-based gang. The Mexican Mafia has been feuding with black inmates for decades and has encouraged their affiliated street gangs to drive African Americans out of their neighborhoods.

There was a major shift from this pattern in 2019. Anti-black crimes were most frequently committed by whites (61%) and Latino/as (37%). The previous year, 55% of anti-black crimes were committed by Latino/as. Latino/a-on-black crimes declined from 59 to 33, a 44% drop. This is the first time since this report started analyzing victim-suspect racial associations 20 years ago that whites, not Latino/as, committed the largest number of anti-black crimes.

Fifty percent of anti-Latino/a crimes were committed by African Americans compared to 53% in 2018. The number of these crimes declined from 40 to 30, a 25% decrease.

A major factor in the decline of Latino/a-on-black crimes was a sharp decline in the number committed by gang members.

In terms of gang involvement, of the 33 Latino/a-on-black hate crimes, only 5 were committed by gang members, an 82% decrease. Another way to view this drop is that in 2018 gang members committed 47% of Latino/a-on-black crimes compared to only 15% in 2019. Of the 30 black-on-Latino/a crimes, there was evidence of gang involvement in only 10 cases or 33% of the total. The previous year gang members committed 9 of these crimes but because the total number of black-on-Latino/a crimes declined, gang involvement rose from 23% to 33% of the total.

Declining Gang Involvement

After increasing the previous year, hate crimes committed by gang members declined 37% from 51 to 32. Gang members were responsible for 6% of all hate crimes (down from 10%) and 9% of racial hate crimes, compared to 15% the previous year.

As a general rule, this report classifies suspects as gang members if they shout their affiliation during the commission of an offense or include gang names or monikers in graffiti. This report does not label suspects as gang members solely based on appearance or clothing. Therefore, it is likely that the actual number of gang members who committed hate crimes is higher.

Reported hate crimes committed by gang members were overwhelmingly racially-motivated (75% compared to 86% in 2018) and they decreased 45% from 44 to 24. Sexual orientation crimes committed by gang members comprised 19% of the total compared to 10% the previous year. There was a lone religious crime and one in which the motivation was unknown.

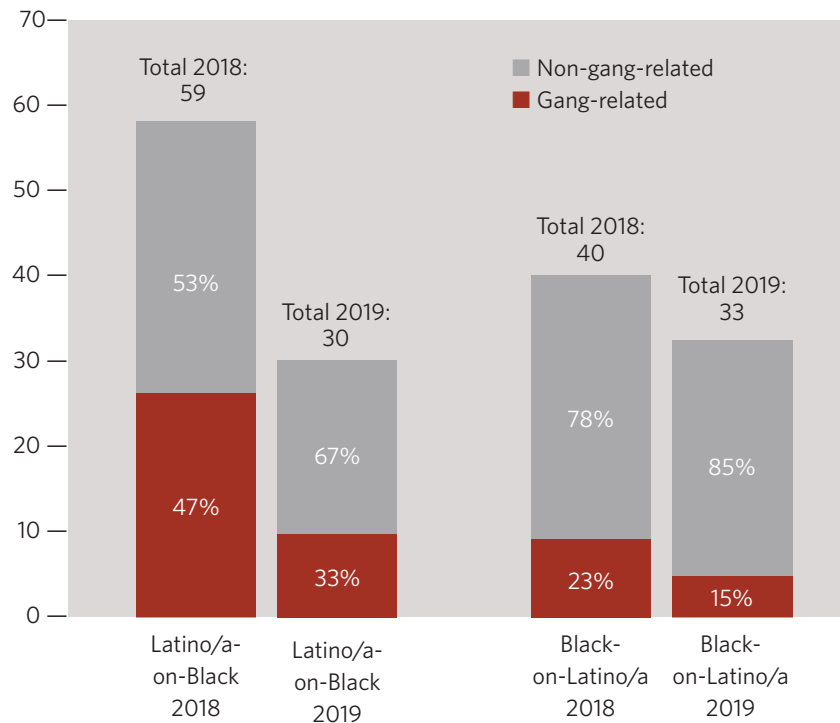
Anti-African American hate crimes committed by gang members plummeted 72% from 29 to 8. They constituted only 25% of gang-related hate crimes compared to 57% the previous year. They were outnumbered by anti-Mexican crimes which constituted 31% of the total. Gay men were targeted in 19% of the gang-related crimes followed by Asian Indians and Chinese (6% each) and there were lone crimes against African and Jewish victims.

Eighty-eight percent of crimes committed by gang members were of a violent nature, up from 67% the previous year. The most common criminal offenses were aggravated assaults (38%), followed by intimidation (31%), and vandalism and simple assaults (13% each). This represented increases in the percentages of both aggravated assaults and acts of intimidation.

Gang members committed hate crimes most frequently at residences (31%), followed by public places (28%), businesses (19%), schools (13%), and government buildings (9%). This represented a sharp drop in the percentage of crimes taking place in public places.

Latino/a suspects dropped from 70% to 39% and black suspects jumped from 26% to 43% of the total. White suspects grew from 4% to 18%. This is the first time since this report began capturing data on gangs in 2006 that black gang member suspects outnumbered Latino/as.

Black-Latino/a Hate Crimes in 2018-2019



List of Gangs involved in Hate Crimes

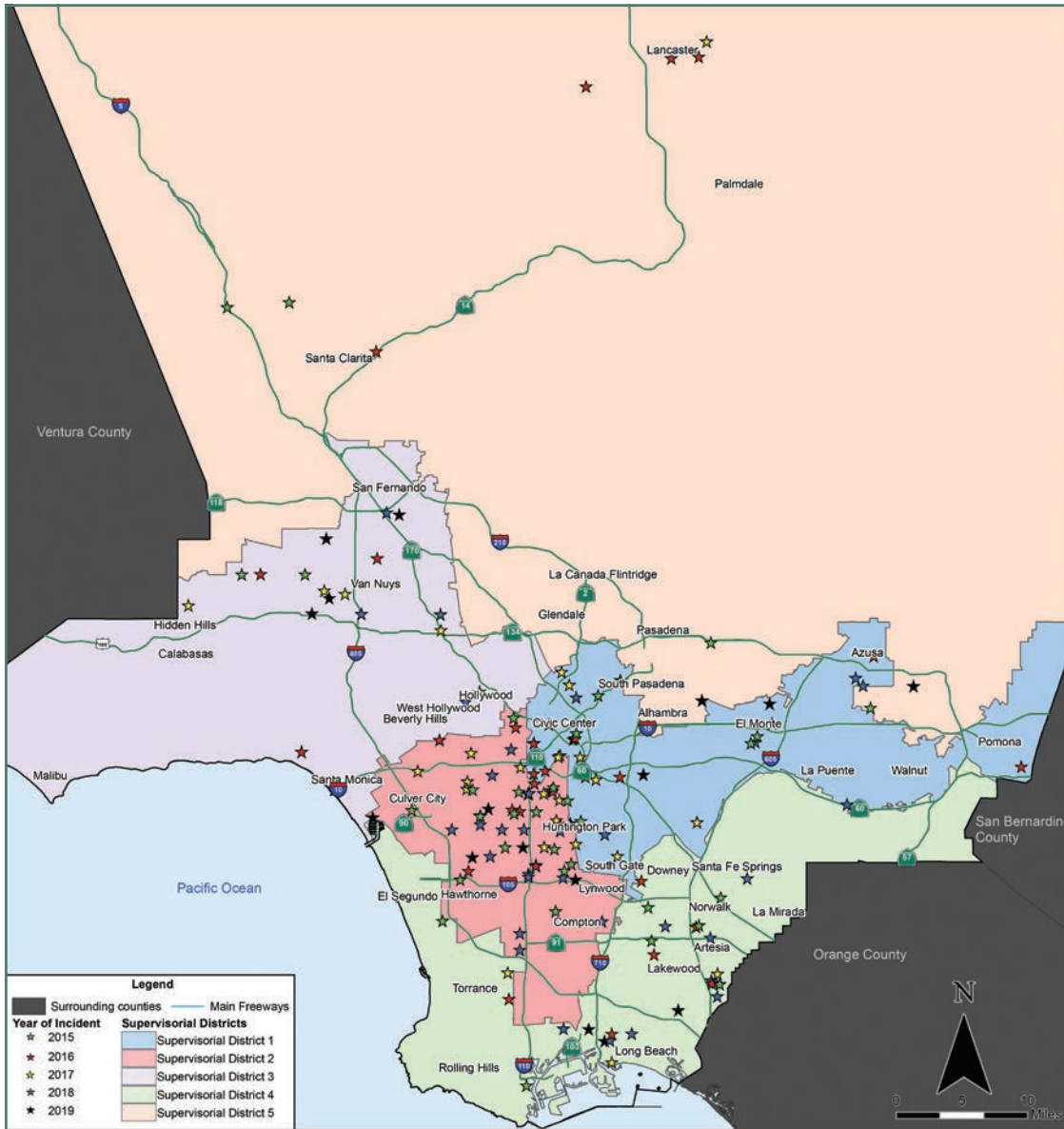
In 2019, there was evidence that members of the following gangs committed hate crimes: Armenian Power, Bloods*, Crips*, Eastside Longos*, Hoover Street Crips, Latin Kings, Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13)*. Mariana Maravilla, Mongols, Neighborhood Crips, PJ Watts Crips, Rolling 20s, Sangra, and Wicked Insane Diablos

Suspects

As in previous years, the suspects were overwhelmingly male (86%).

The largest group of suspects (37%) were adults age 26-40. This represented a decline of 30% compared to the previous year. They were followed by suspects 40 or older (26%). Persons 18-25 comprised 27% of all suspects. For the seventh year in a row, juveniles comprised the smallest group (9%).

2015-2019 Gang-Related Hate Crimes



Map by Florentino Bernal Jr.

In addition to the hate crimes shown on this map, there are crimes that are not displayed due to insufficient address information.

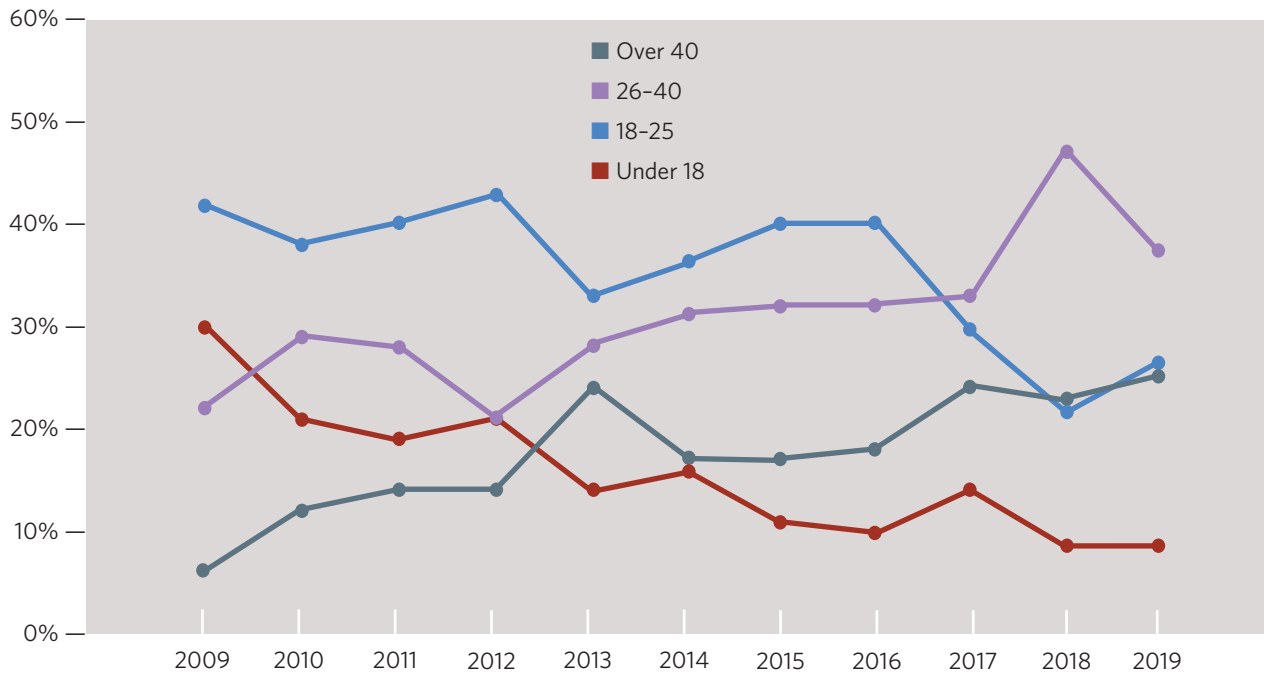
Hate Crimes Committed by Groups of Suspects

This report tracks the number of hate crimes committed by multiple suspects. In 2019, in cases in which suspects were identified, 83% of the crimes were committed by lone suspects, similar to the previous year. In 10% of hate crimes there were 2 suspects, and in 5% there were 3. There was 1 crime involving a group of 8 suspects and 2 crimes in which the suspects numbered 15.

Following are brief descriptions of what occurred with these two cases with 15 suspects each.

- A Mexican couple was at a Colombian salsa dance when they saw a male friend attacked by a group of 15 Colombian men. When the wife asked why they were fighting, a suspect replied, “Because you’re fucking Mexicans.” Then a suspect grabbed the wife by the hair and another suspect kicked her. The husband was pushed to the ground and a suspect stepped on his ankle.

2009-2019 Hate Crimes: Known Suspects by Age



This graph depicts what percentage of suspects fell within different age groups each year.

- A Latina girl was dropped off by her grandparents at her family's apartment at a housing development? She saw 15 young black males who'd harassed her family previously approach. Frightened, she ran home and locked the door behind her. The suspects pounded on the door. The girl's mother asked them to leave because they were scaring her children. When they continued, the mother opened the door and told them to stop. A suspect, "You Mexican bitch! You don't belong here! This is PJ 'hood!" He then threw a skateboard at her striking her head and shoulder. The suspects then fled. The victim complained to police of pain to her head and shoulder.

Hate Crimes in Which Suspects Invoked the President's Name

Since 2016, this report has documented hate crimes in which President Trump's name was invoked. Given that the country has been increasingly polarized along the lines of race, sexual orientation, religion, and gender one would have expected that the number of these might increase. They have, in fact, fallen each year.

In 2019 there were 4 crimes in which the suspect named the President and in 3 the victims were attacked and called racial or religious slurs because they were perceived to be Trump supporters. In the 4th, a gay, white male couple received an annoying phone call on their voice mail at home. An unknown caller said, "Why don't you two faggots put a bullet in your head because Trump hates faggots like you!"

Documenting, Responding to, and Preventing Bias-Motivated Hostility

Working to transform prejudice into acceptance, inequity into justice, and hostility into peace.

The Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (LACCHR) was first established as a committee by the County Board of Supervisors in January 1944, in response to what has been labelled as the “Zoot Suit Riots,” three days of racially-motivated street violence during the previous June. For nearly 75 years, LACCHR and its prior forms have been bringing people together across boundaries of difference to advance equity. We continue to support, inform, train, and mobilize groups and organizations to replace prejudice and fear with respect and trust in one of the most diverse regions in the world. These efforts are in service of LACCHR’s mission to promote better human relations in Los Angeles County by working to transform prejudice into acceptance, inequity into justice, and hostility into peace.

We are moved to action by our vision for a County where the fundamental rights of every person are met, all people and groups are unrestricted in the pursuit of their full potential, conflicts are peacefully and equitably resolved, and County government leads and models the highest level of respect for civil liberties and human rights, safeguarding the intrinsic dignity of each individual.

Public displays of hate remind us of the ongoing challenge to fully realize this vision. In response to this challenge, LACCHR continues to work to document, respond to, and prevent hate crime.

Assessment

To adequately address bias-motivated hostility we must identify its roots, incidence, and impact. With this end in mind, Commission staff members gather, verify, and disseminate accurate information about hate acts and hostile situations that display prejudice. Since 1980, our assessment efforts have included this annual report that compiles and analyzes hate crime data submitted by sheriff and city police agencies, educational institutions, and community-based organizations. In September 2019, we began an anti-hate initiative which would become the LA vs Hate program that contracts with 211LA to receive reports of hate incidents and hate crimes. Through this initiative we also coordinate services to persons targeted by bias-motivated hostility. More information on this element of the project is provided under “Coalition-Building” below. Analysis of hate act reports to 211 from September through December 2019 identified 42 hate incidents and 11 hate crimes targeting people based on perceived race/ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or gender.

Training

Each year, Commission staff members speak on the scope and impact of bias-motivated hostility. In 2019, these activities included training and other presentations to 211LA staff; the Beverly Hills Human Relations Commission; the CA Law Enforcement Association of Records Supervisors; the Hate Violence Prevention Partnership-LA (Bienestar, Brotherhood Crusade, California Conference for Equality and Justice, and the Muslim Public Affairs Council); the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies; the LA City Human Relations Commission; the LA County Department of Workforce Development, Aging, and Community Services; the Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition; the Long Beach LGBT Center; the Long Beach Trauma and Recovery Center; the Network against Hate Crime; the Orange County Human Relations Commission; and Stonewall Democrats. Presentations on hate crime in 2019 included press briefings for multiple English, Spanish-language, Chinese, and Korean media organizations.

In addition, Commission staff members are regularly engaged to design and deliver training that facilitates change in underlying attitudes and overt behavior that, left unchecked, can lead to hate crime in their most extreme expressions. We also lead training experiences to support advocacy for and build the capacity of groups frequently targeted by hate crime. Topics we addressed in training during 2019 included equipping and engaging youth as social justice leaders, environmental racism, gender and social justice, homophobia, immigration, managing implicit bias, mediation, positive and effective responses to conflict, responding to public displays of hate, the school-to-prison pipeline, strengthening cultural competence, and transphobia.

Coalition-Building

While hate crime is a concern for many different groups, strategic coordination and collaboration can multiply their impact. We bring stakeholders together and help them take the fullest possible advantage of their distinctive experiences, skills, and resources.

As part of this effort, LACCHR staff coordinates a countywide Network Against Hate Crime that includes government representatives, law enforcement agencies, civil and human rights organizations, educators, faith communities, and service groups. We also assembled and continue to support the Hate Violence Prevention Partnership-LA that works to reduce and end hate violence by providing practitioners opportunities to share best practices and exchange relevant and timely information. In 2019, as part of the new anti-hate initiative, we began assembling a network of organizations to provide support and services to persons targeted by bias-motivated hostility. Referrals to these organizations are provided by care coordinators for whom we contract with 211LA.

The LA vs Hate Rapid Response Network is made up of, Special Services for Groups (SSG), Anti-Defamation League (ADL), Antelope Valley Partners for Health (AVPH), Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON), Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of L.A. (CHIRLA), Hate Violence Prevention Partnership of L.A. (HVPP-LA) composed of Bienestar, Brotherhood Crusade, California Conference for Equality & Justice, and Muslim Public Affairs Council, Not In Our Town (NIOT), San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center, Inc. Bullying & School Violence Advocacy Program, Western Justice Center, 211-LA, and Taskforce PR.

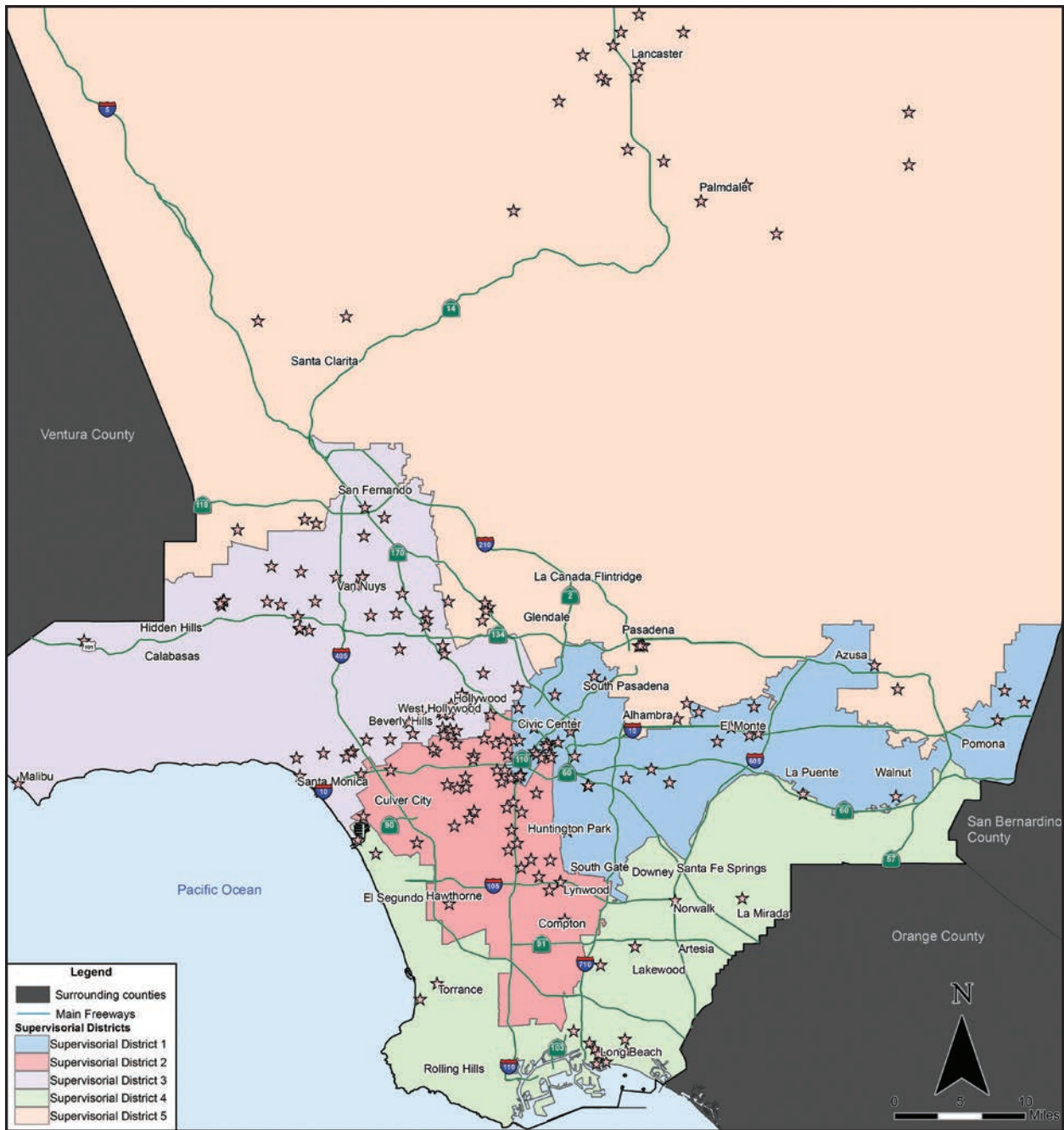


In observance of the National Day of Racial Healing, a group of youth justice leaders from across the Country participated in a dialogue on Deepening Racial Justice in Community Organizing.



Award-winning ProPublica investigative reporter A.C. Thompson addresses the Network Against Hate Crime on the rise of violent white nationalists.

A Closer Look at Racial* Hate Crimes



Map by Florentino Bernal Jr.

2019 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes Motivated by Race/Ethnicity/National Origin

In addition to the hate crimes shown on this map, there are crimes that are not displayed due to insufficient address information.

* For brevity, hate crimes motivated by the victim's real or perceived race, ethnicity, or national origin are referred to as "racial" hate crimes throughout in this report.

Racial Crimes Decline

After increasing 11% the previous year, racially motivated hate crimes decreased 9% from 287 to 261 in 2019. They constituted 49% of all reported hate crimes, compared to 53% the previous year.

African Americans Most Frequently Targeted

Forty-seven percent of racial hate crimes targeted African Americans, compared to 50% the previous year. Black persons constitute 9% of the total population of Los Angeles County, but each year are grossly over-represented as victims of racial hate crime. Historically, large numbers of anti-black crimes have been committed by Latino/a gang members. As mentioned in the *2019 Hate Crimes in Perspectives* section, the number of anti-black hate crimes committed by Latino gang members plummeted 72% from 29 to 8.

The second largest group of victims, Latino/as, were targeted in 25% of racial hate crimes, a decrease from 29% the previous year. Anti-Latino/a crimes declined from 85 to 66. Because Latino/as comprise about half of L.A. County residents, this is a surprisingly low number. Major cities like Los Angeles, Houston, Denver, and Philadelphia have documented significant declines in the number of crimes reported by Latino/a victims since the start of the Trump presidency. It is possible that growing numbers of Latino/a victims are increasingly reluctant to contact law enforcement because they fear detection by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. This anxiety also could be a factor in the under-reporting of hate crimes.

Crimes targeting Asians and Pacific Islanders increased 32% from 19 to 25. Although Asian Americans constitute 15% of Los Angeles County residents, in 2019 they were targeted in only 9% of reported racial hate crimes. But the 25 anti-Asian hate crimes are the largest number reported in 12 years. Several of the cases involved multiple victims.

Anti-white crimes, which had doubled the previous year, decreased 15% from 26 to 22. White residents make up nearly 26% of the county's population but represented only 8% of racial hate crime victims in 2019. The previous year there were a number of crimes in which anti-white bias was mixed with anti-gentrification sentiment. In 2019 there was only one such case. "Fuck whites" was painted on a Highland Park store. The owner told police that his store was on an Instagram list circulated by anti-gentrification activists.

Anti-Middle Eastern crimes jumped from 7 to 17 and comprised 6% of the total. This is the largest number of anti-Middle Eastern hate crimes reported since 2003. It should be noted that one of the cases involved 5 victims who were all members of an Iranian family.

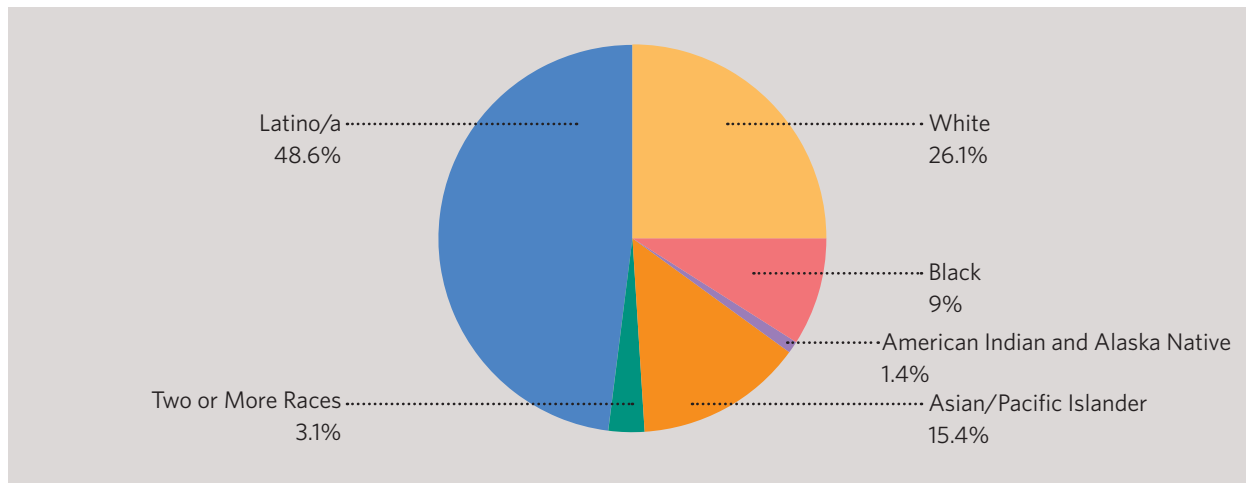
There were also 4 anti-Armenian and 4 cases of white supremacist graffiti (e.g. "white power") that did not specify any racial or ethnic group. This report classifies these crimes as targeting "non-white" people. In addition, there were 3 crimes targeting Africans and single crimes targeting American Indians and Russians.

Victim-Suspect Correlations

There were some clear patterns of the racial/ethnic backgrounds of suspects and victims.

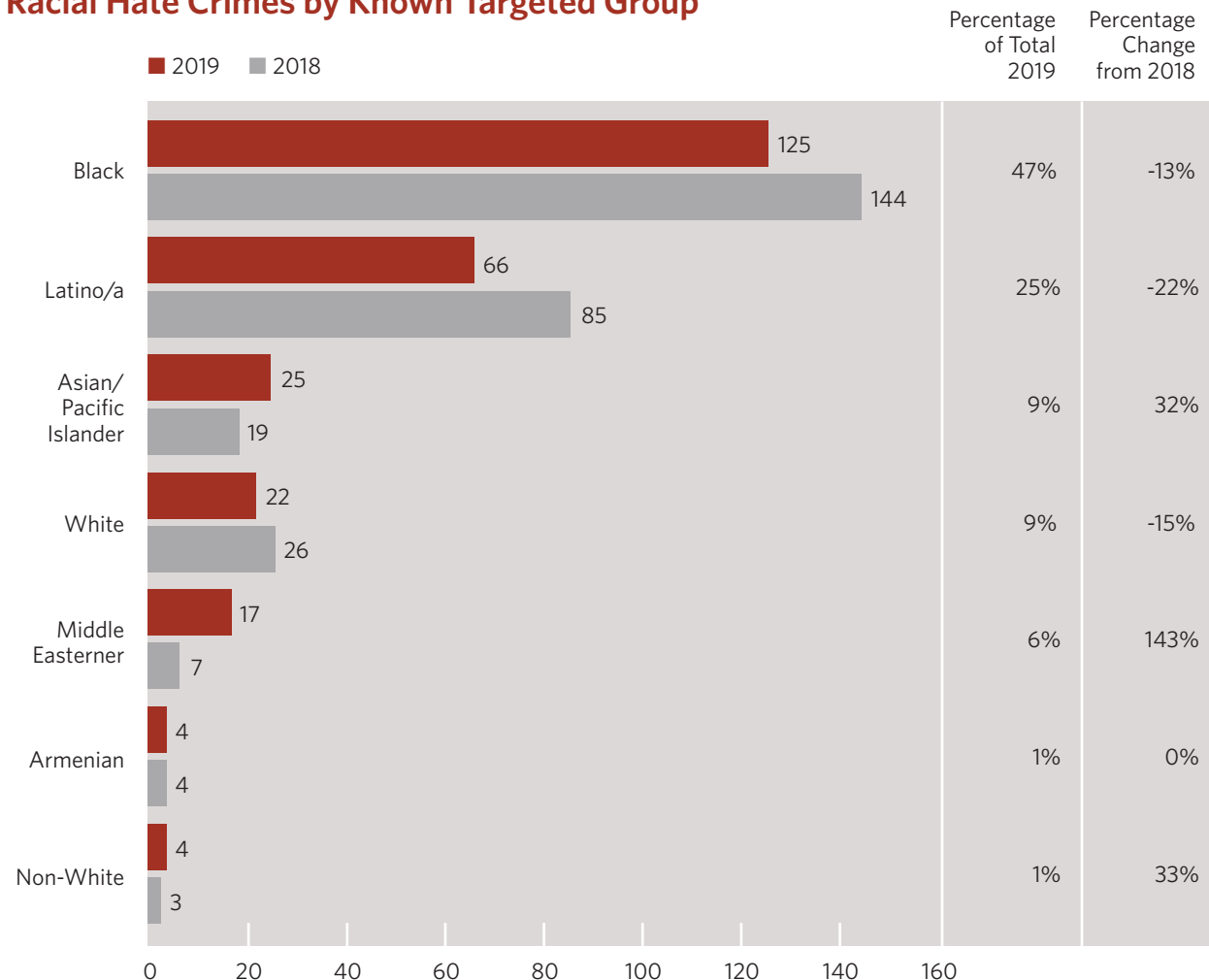
- Anti-black crimes were most frequently committed by whites (61%) and Latino/as (37%). This is the first time in 20 years that the majority of anti-black crimes were committed by white suspects, not Latino/as.
- Latino/a victims were targeted by African Americans most often (50%), followed by whites (42%). Seven percent of anti-Latino/a crimes were committed by other Latino/as. The Latino/a-on-Latino/a crimes were between Latino/as of different ethnic groups.

Los Angeles County Population by Race/Ethnicity



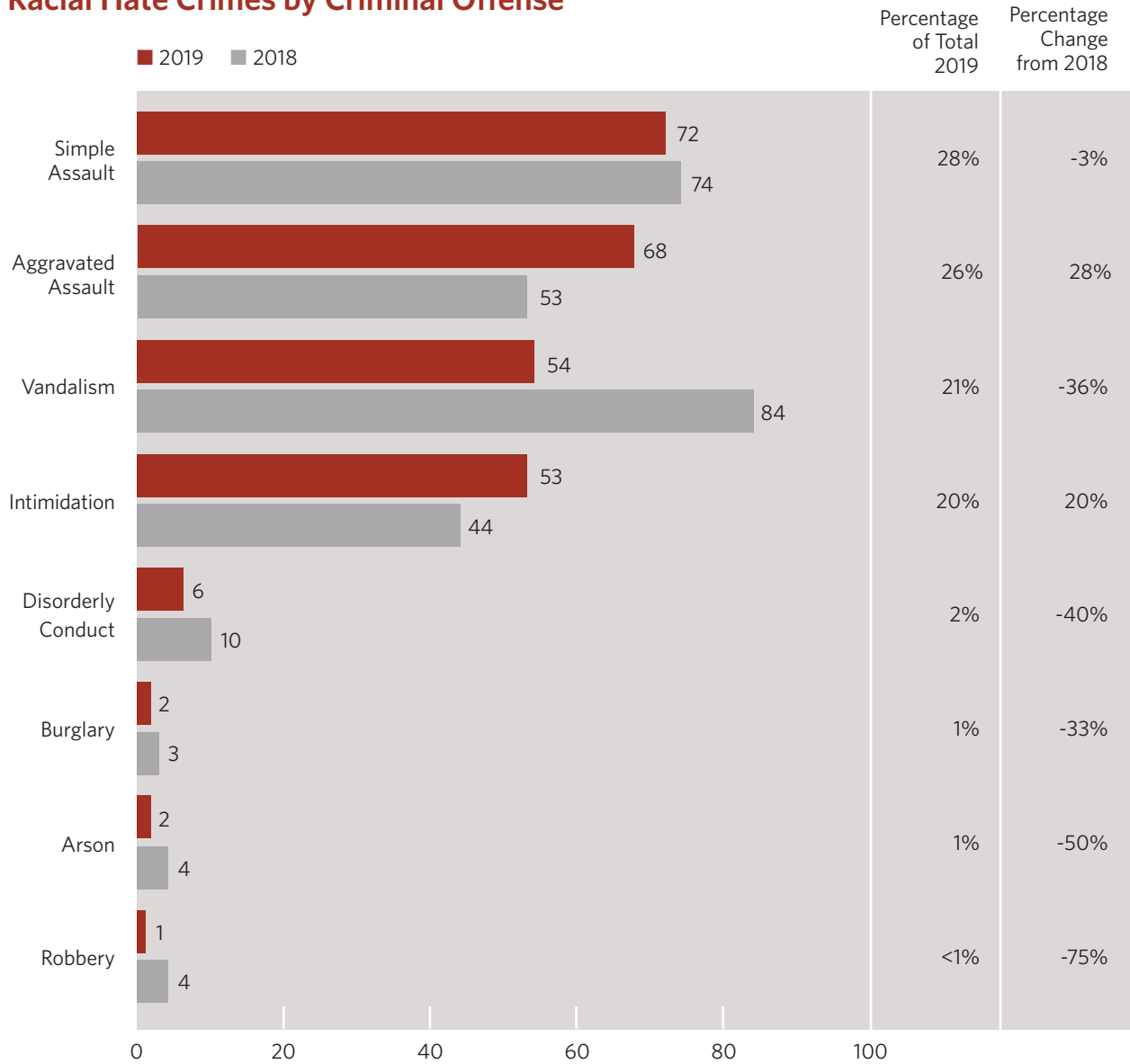
Source: U. S Census *Population Estimates, July 1, 2019*. Persons who identify as Latino/a on the U.S. Census can be of any race. Except for "Latino/a," all other groups on this chart refer to persons who do not identify as Latino/a.

Racial Hate Crimes by Known Targeted Group



This chart aggregates major racial and ethnic groups. In 2019, there were also 3 crimes targeting Africans, and single crimes targeting American Indian/Alaskan Natives and Russians.

Racial Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense



In 2019, there were single cases of attempted murder, theft, and trespassing.

- Anti-Asian crimes were committed most often by Latino/as (42%), followed by whites (32%) and blacks (26%). This represented an increase in the percentage of anti-Asian crimes committed by Latino/as and blacks and a slight decline in those committed by white suspects.
- Whites were targeted by black suspects in 55% of the cases and Latino/as in 30%. This represented a decline in the percentage of anti-white crimes committed by blacks and an increase in those committed by Latino/as.

Rate of Violence Increases

Seventy-five percent of racial crimes were of a violent nature, an increase from the previous year (64%). The largest numbers of criminal offenses were simple assaults (28%), followed closely by aggravated assaults (26%), vandalisms (21%), and acts of intimidation (20%). This represented a 36% drop in vandalism and a 28% increase in aggravated assaults from the previous year.

Of the larger victim groups, crimes targeting Latino/as were the most likely to be violent (88%), followed by Middle Easterners (82%), Asians (76%), African Americans (71%), and whites (64%). This represented a sharp increase in the rate of violence experienced by Latino/as and Asians and moderate increases in crimes targeting blacks and Middle Easterners and whites.

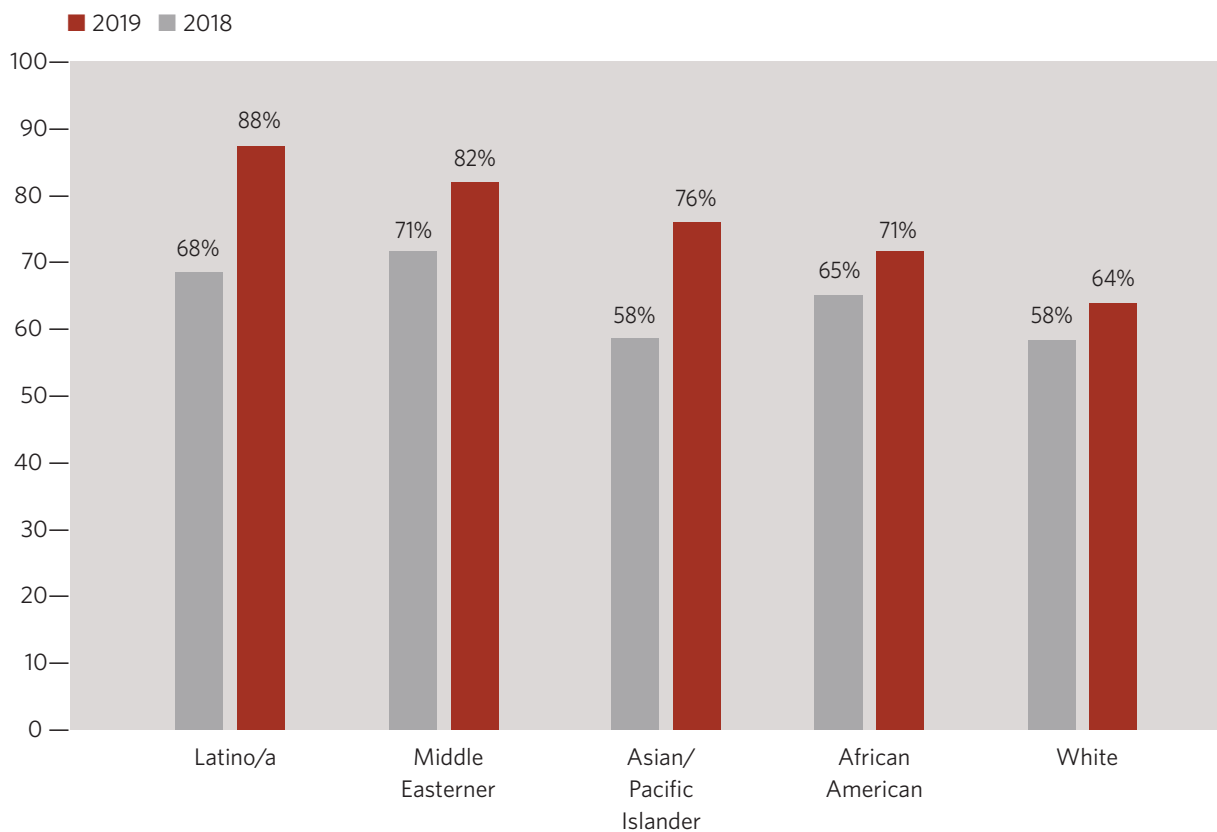
Racial Crimes Take Place Most Often in Public Places

Thirty-nine percent of racial crimes occurred in public places, followed by businesses (26%), residences (22%), and schools (6%). There was a 36% increase in racial hate crimes at businesses and smaller percentage increases for those occurring in public places, residences, and schools.

Second Highest Number of Anti-Immigrant Slurs

There were 48 crimes in which the suspects used specifically anti-immigrant language, such as “Wetback!” or “Go back to your country!” compared to 55 the previous year. This is the second largest number of crimes reported with specifically anti-immigrant language since this report started tracking xenophobic slurs in 2001. Fifty-seven percent of the suspects in these cases were white and 29% were black. The previous year half of the suspects in these crimes were black and only 33% were white. Also, in 2018 some suspects directly referenced President Trump’s proposals to build a wall along the Mexican border and mass-deport Mexicans. In 2019 there were no such statements.

Rates of Violence for Victims of Racial Hate Crime



Latino/as were targeted in the great majority of these crimes (64%, down from 78%), and in 20 of these 32 attacks specific anti-Mexican slurs were used. They were followed by crimes targeting Middle Easterners (20%) Asians (14%), and a single anti-Muslim crime.

Eighty-eight percent of crimes involving anti-immigrant slurs were of a violent nature, compared to only 69% in 2018 and 76% in 2017. Aggravated assaults increased 62% and were the most common offense (44%), followed by simple assaults (33%), intimidation (10%), and vandalism (8%). This represented increases in aggravated assaults and declines in the number of vandalisms and simple assaults.

The most common location of these crimes was in public places (50%), followed by businesses (27%) and residences (15%). The distribution of these crimes by location was almost identical to the previous year.

It is important to note that other racial crimes might also have been motivated by anti-immigrant sentiment, but the suspects did not use specific xenophobic language. The number of specific anti-immigrant slurs is only one measure of racist nationalism.

Actual Racial Hate Crimes

February 22, Boyle Heights—A Latina female victim was getting into her car after grocery shopping. When she opened her driver's side door, she accidentally tapped the car next to her. A white female became enraged and yelled "You hit my fucking car!" The victim was immediately apologetic, but the suspect continued to yell, "You fucking Mexican! I'm going to call ICE! You don't belong here, you fucking bitch!" A white male approached and also confronted the victim. Fearful, the victim tried calling the police on her cell phone but the female suspect retrieved a handgun and pointed it at her. The victim then ran inside the store to get help and the suspects drove off.

May 31, University Park—An Asian male graduate student was about to exit a Metro station when a white male suspect punched him in the eye. The victim attempted to pick up his glasses and escape but the suspect punched him in the nose and yelled, "Fucken Chinese!" Passersby began to yell at the suspect causing him to stop the attack and run off. The victim walked back to his apartment and called police. Paramedics also arrived to treat his injuries.

June 22, Universal City—A white female suspect attempted to snatch the purse of a black female victim. The victim ran after the suspect and grabbed her by the arm. The suspect responded by punching the victim's face several times, then threw the purse at her and ran off. The victim was treated at the scene by paramedics. The attempted robbery was captured by a security camera. The suspect was detained a short time later. When questioned, the suspect stated, "I attacked that bitch because she's an Arab and I hate those motherfuckers."

July 9, DTLA—A Latino male victim was setting up janitorial equipment for work when a black male suspect approached him and began kicking his equipment. He then pushed the victim who twisted his ankle as he fell to the ground. The suspect yelled, "Fucking wetback! Fucking illegal! I will call ICE!" The victim fled and entered an office building and notified security.

July 23, Encino—A South Asian male victim was working as a cashier at a carwash. He heard a white male suspect make racial slurs towards various groups. "Fuck you niggers! You are defending those illegal immigrants! Fuck you Mexicans!" The victim told him "You need to leave my business! Stop bothering my employees and customers." The suspect replied, "You Punjabi motherfucker! Go back to India!" while he struck the victim in stomach with his skateboard. The suspect was later arrested.

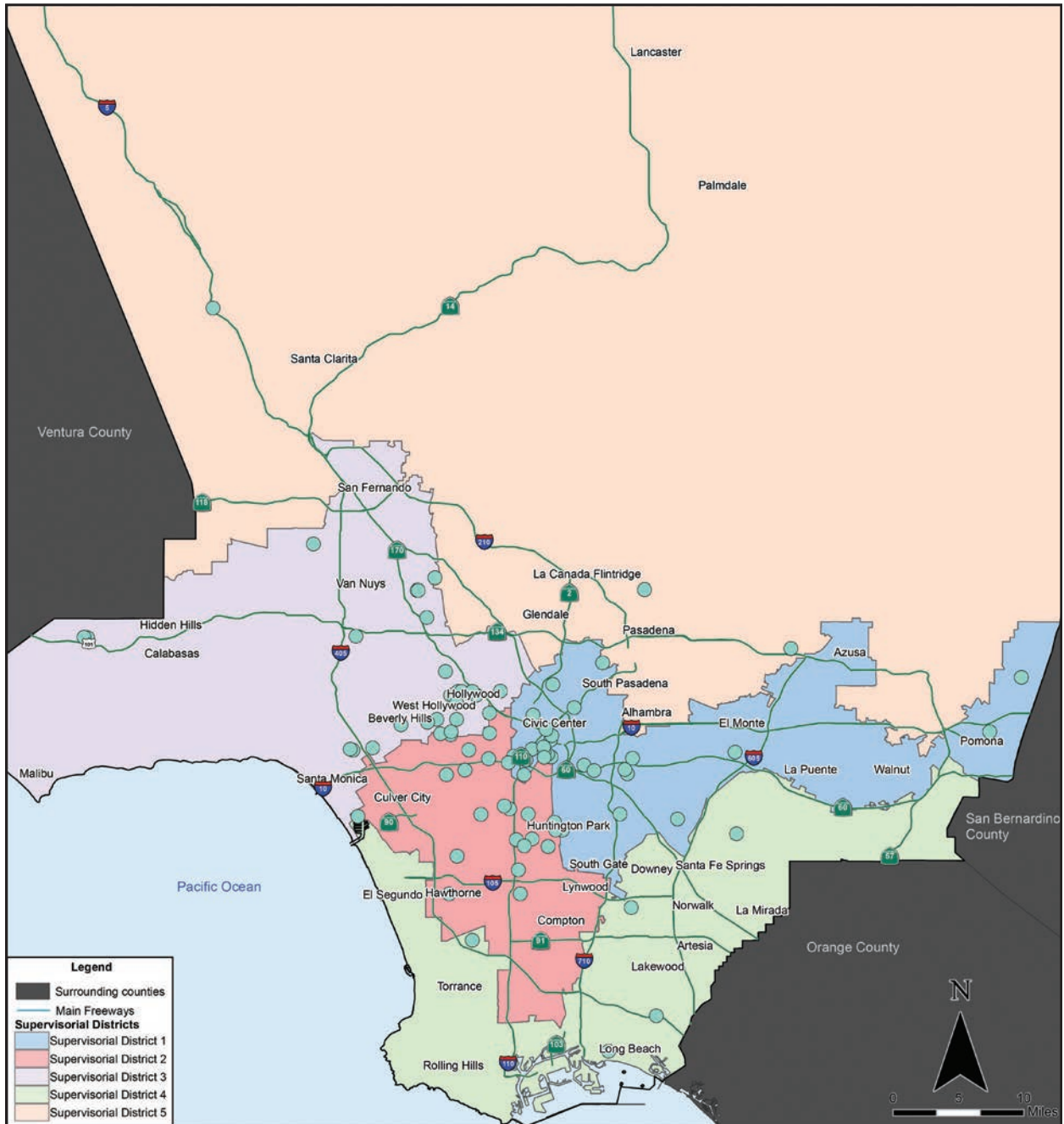
Actual Racial Hate Crimes (continued)

August 22, South L.A.—A black female victim was walking towards Nickerson Gardens Housing Development when she heard someone yell, “Hey Nigger!” from a parked vehicle. A Latino male suspect exited the vehicle and punched her in the face, knocking the victim to the ground. Two other Latino males joined the first suspect in punching and kicking her. The victim lost consciousness and awoke to see a by-stander and paramedics. She blacked out again and was transported to a hospital.

September 27, Torrance—A black teenager was walking when gray minivan pulled alongside of him. A middle-aged white male rolled down the window and pointed a semi-automatic handgun at him and yelled, “ Hey Nigger! Pew, Pew!” (imitating the sound of gunshots). The victim feared for his life and ran away.

October 1, South Los Angeles —A white male was on his way to photograph the Nipsy Hustle mural when he heard someone yell, “White man!” The victim turned around and saw a black male suspect in a boxing stance. The suspect yelled, “White mother fucker!” and punched the victim in the chest. The victim fled to a gas station where he called police. Before the police arrived, the suspect fled the scene.

A Closer Look at Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes



Map by Florentino Bernal Jr.

2019 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes Motivated by Sexual Orientation

In addition to the hate crimes shown on this map, there are crimes that are not displayed due to insufficient address information.

Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes Decline 22%

After rising sharply the previous year, sexual orientation-motivated hate crimes in 2019 fell 22% from 130 to 101. They comprised 19% of all reported hate crimes, compared to 24% in 2018.

Victims are Overwhelmingly Gay Men

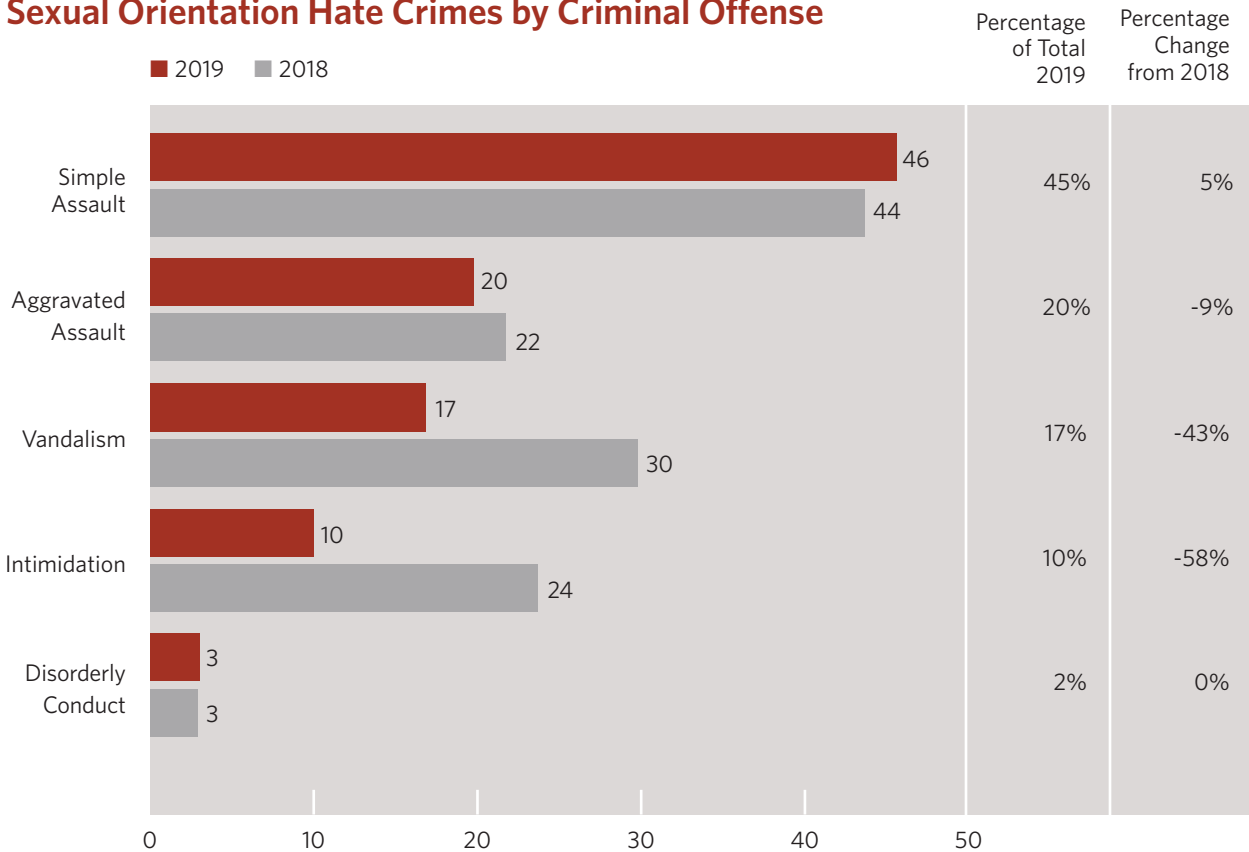
As in earlier years the great majority of sexual orientation crimes targeted gay men (85%). These cases decreased 19% from 106 to 86. Similar to the previous year, lesbians were targeted in 14% of sexual orientation crimes. They declined 22% from 18 to 14. There was also a crime in which the victim was attacked in part because the suspect knew he was bisexual.

Anti-transgender crimes are discussed separately in the “A Closer Look at Gender Crimes” section of this report.

Extremely High Rate of Violence

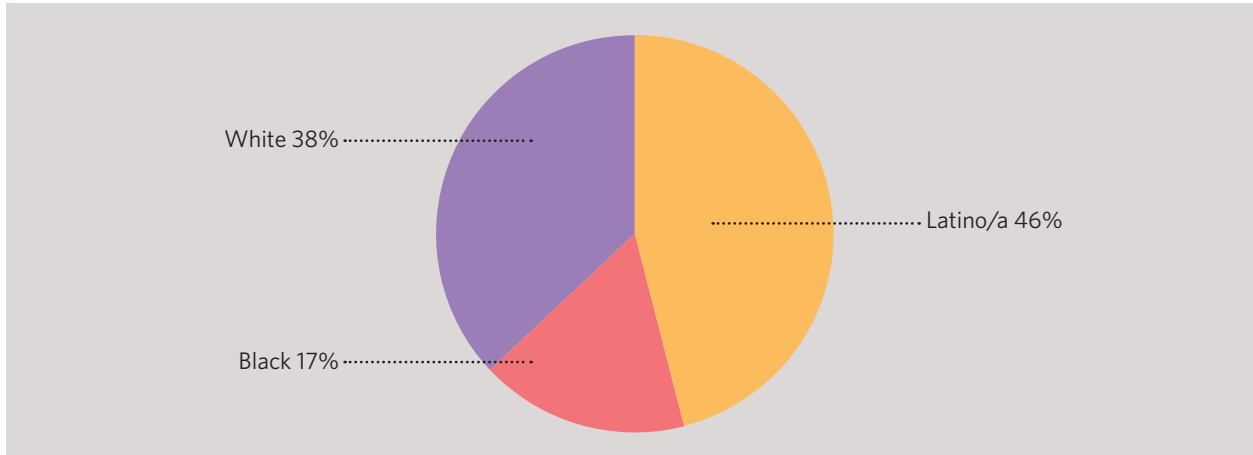
Historically, crimes motivated by sexual orientation have had a significantly higher rate of violence than crimes based on race or religion. In 2019, violent sexual orientation crimes increased from 72% to 79%. Anti-gay male crimes were more likely to be of a violent nature (81%, up from 73%) than crimes targeting lesbians (64%, slightly down from 67%).

Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense



In 2019, there were single cases of burglary and sexual assault.

Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes by Known Victim Race/Ethnicity



As in previous years, the most common criminal offense was simple assault (up from 34% in 2018 to 45%), followed by aggravated assault (20%), vandalism (17%), and intimidation (10%). This represented substantial decreases in cases of acts of intimidation (down 58%) and vandalism (down 43%).

White Victims Increase and Black Victims Decline

Latino/as remained the largest group of victims (46%), followed by whites (38%) and African Americans (17%). Given that whites and African Americans comprise 26% and 9% of the total Los Angeles County population respectively, both groups are over-represented as victims of sexual orientation hate crime. White victims of homophobic crimes were the only group that increased in 2019 from 29 to 34, a 17% increase.

The previous year black and Latino/a victims of homophobic crime were most likely to be targeted by suspects of the same race and whites were attacked most frequently by African American suspects. In 2019, there were some significant departures from those patterns. Latino/as were again targeted most frequently by other Latino/as (66%, up from 46%), followed by African Americans (21%) and whites (13%). That represented a decline in black suspects. White victims were targeted primarily by white suspects (47%), followed by blacks (32%) and Latino/as (21%). Again, there was a sharp decline in black suspects. Black victims decreased 54% from 26 to 12 and were targeted by equal percentages of black and Latino/a suspects (33% each), followed by whites (25%) and a lone Middle Eastern suspect (8%). The number and percentage of black suspects declined.

Most Homophobic Crimes Occur in Public Places

The largest number of sexual orientation hate crimes reported in 2019 took place in public places (39%), followed by residences (31%) and businesses (19%). This distribution was similar to the previous year. The biggest changes were sharp declines in the numbers of homophobic crimes that took place in businesses and schools, which fell 32% and 80%, respectively.

As in previous years, sexual orientation crimes took place throughout the county but the great majority (71%) took place in the City of Los Angeles.

Actual Sexual Orientation Crimes

January 1, South Los Angeles—A black male victim was walking when 3 Latino male suspects walked up to him and yelled, “Hey faggot!” The suspects then began to punch the victim knocking him to the ground. The suspects continued to punch the victim while yelling, “Faggot ass! Nigger sissy! Gay motherfucker!” The suspects fled the scene on foot.

March 7, West Hollywood —A white male boarded a bus and sat down in front of a black male who was yelling and cursing. The victim told the him, “You need to stop. People on this bus are also all having a bad day.” The suspect then started verbally harassing the victim calling him a “faggot in a white hoodie.” When the bus paused at a stop, the suspect started punching the victim in the face. The victim lost consciousness because of the severity of the beating. The suspect then exited the bus and fled. The victim was transported to the hospital. Meanwhile Sheriff’s deputies detained a suspect and the victim was able to identify him after being shown digital photographs.

May 4, DTLA—An older Latino male was leaving a local gay bar when he was approached by 4 young Latino males and 2 Latinas. Suddenly, one of the male suspects punched him, knocking him to the ground. The three other male suspects joined in punching and kicking him while yelling, ‘faggot’ and “pinche puto maricon” (fucking gay faggot). The victim pleaded for his life and could hear the females telling the suspects to stop the attack. Several patrons of the bar rushed to help the victim and the suspects fled on foot.

June 29, Paramount —A young Latina went to pick up her girlfriend from her parents’ home. The parents never approved of the relationship and on this occasion the father charged the victim, choking her and throwing her against a wall repeatedly.

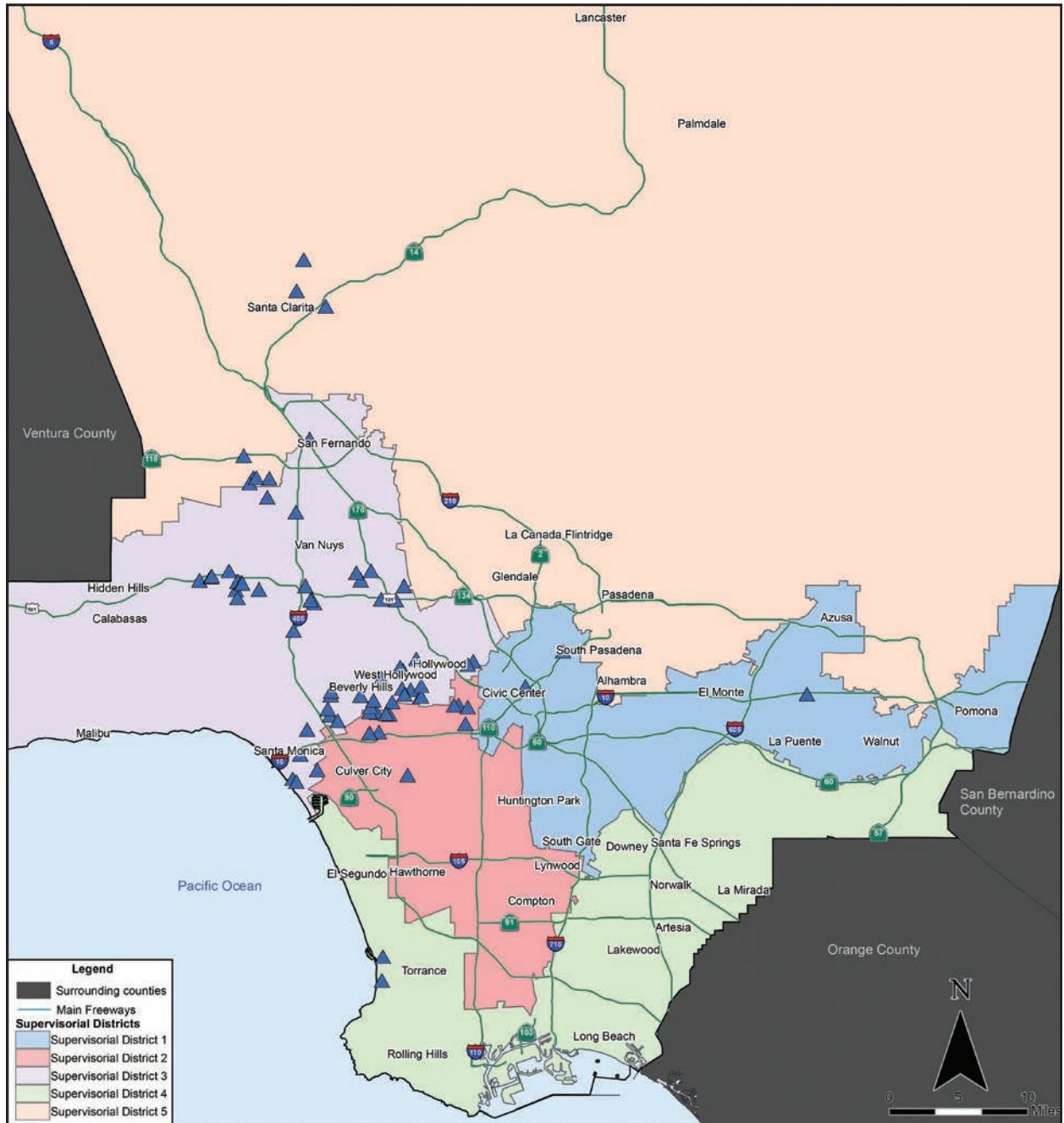
August 24, North Hollywood—A Latino male victim was walking when he encountered an Armenian male suspect who was swinging a metal bar back and forth. When victim was 10 feet away, the suspect asked, “Hey, how are you doing?” The victim ignored him and the suspect then asked, “Are you gay?” Before the victim could respond, the suspect swung the bar striking the victim in the upper arm and shoulder. The suspect struck the victim a second time. When he raised the weapon a third time the victim ran away to escape further injury. The suspect chased victim for 50 feet before stopping. The victim screamed for help and called 911 on his cell phone. A witness corroborated the victim’s account.

Police took suspect into custody. He refused to answer questions and complained of chest pains. The suspect was transported to a hospital. At the hospital the suspect repeatedly shouted homophobic remarks.

November 13, Hollywood —A middle-aged white female was lying on the sidewalk. When a Latina lesbian sat down on a bus stop bench the suspect rose and without provocation yelled, “You lesbian bitch!” The victim asked her to leave her alone. Instead, the suspect told her, “I’m going to get you,” and swung a baseball bat striking the victim in the arm. The suspect attempted to flee but was taken into custody by police.

November 22, Altadena —A white male victim returned home to find 6 glass panels on his front door along broken. Entering the residence, the victim found a large rock on living room floor with a note tied to it saying, “Fuck you, you faggat rott in hell bichh!” He estimated the damages at about \$1,000.

A Closer Look at Religious Hate Crimes



Map by Florentino Bernal Jr.

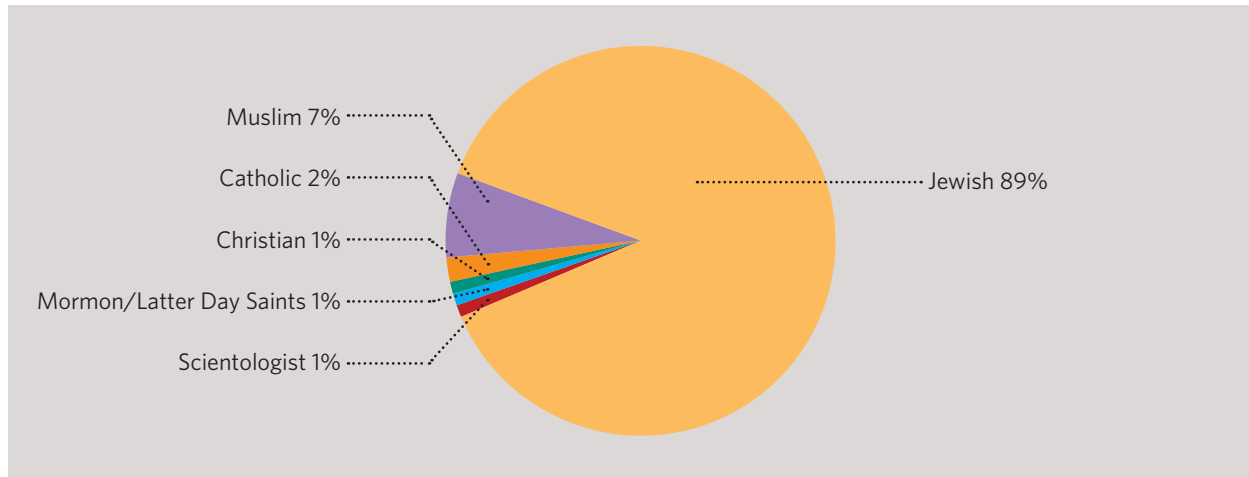
2019 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes Motivated by Religion

In addition to the hate crimes shown on this map, there are crimes that are not displayed due to insufficient address information.

Religious Hate Crimes Surpass Sexual Orientation Crimes

After declining 4% the previous year, religious crimes rose 11% from 95 to 105 in 2019. Historically, crimes motivated by religion have nearly always been the third largest category after crimes motivated by race and sexual orientation. However, in 2019, they exceeded the number of sexual orientation crimes (105 compared to 102). Religious and sexual orientation crimes each constituted 19% of all hate crime motivations (because of rounding numbers to the nearest integer).

Religious Hate Crimes by Targeted Group



Anti-Jewish Crimes Grow

As in the past, the great majority of these crimes (89%, up from 82%) targeted the Jewish community. Anti-Jewish crimes rose 18% from 79 to 93. This is the highest percentage of anti-Semitic crimes since 2012 and the largest number since 2009.

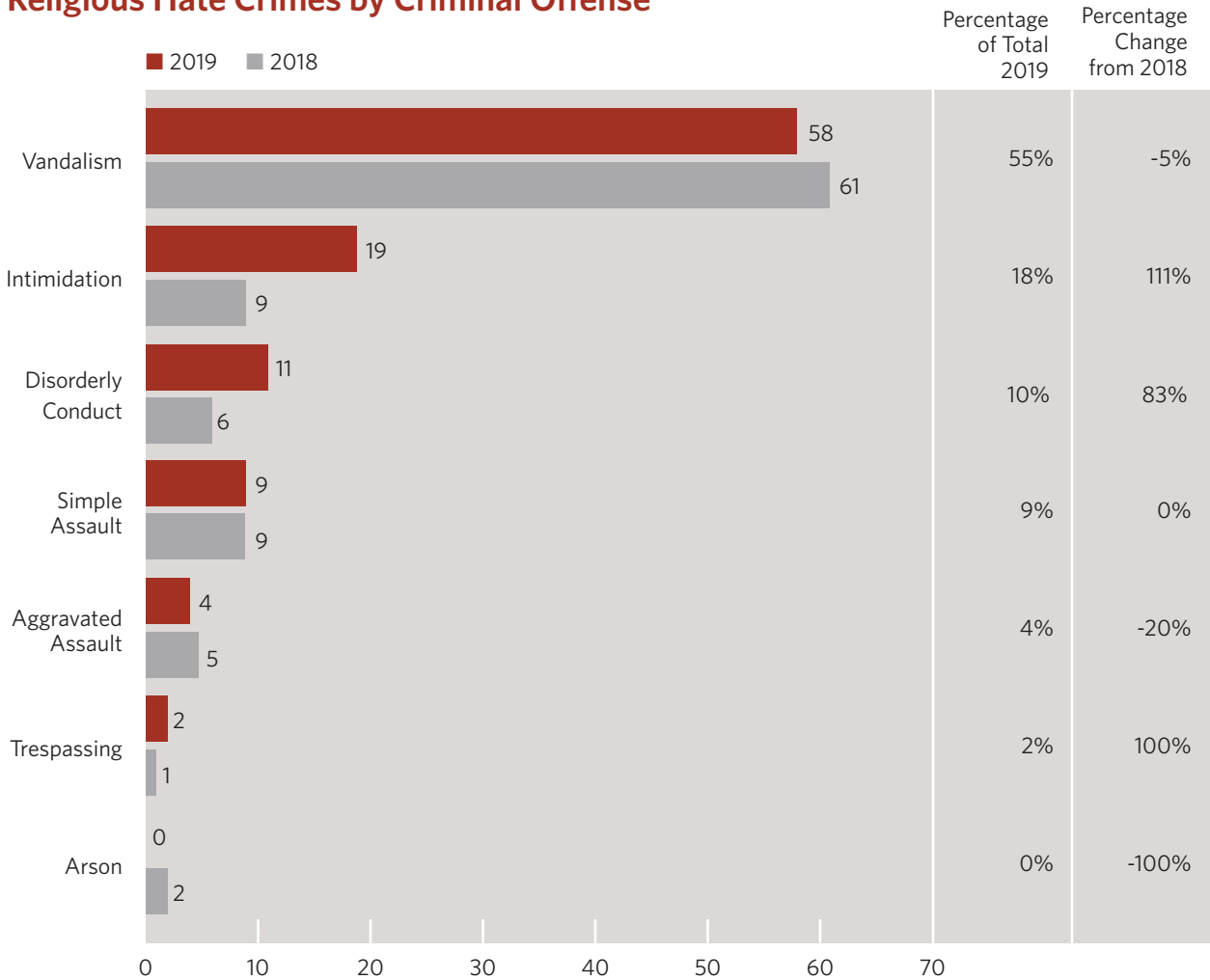
This increase was mirrored by a national 2019 Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents issued by the Anti-Defamation League. The study found that the number of anti-Semitic incidents in 2019 (both hate crimes and non-criminal hate incidents) increased 12% percent compared to the previous year. That included a 56% increase in the number of assaults and 5 fatalities, including a white supremacist shooting at a Chabad center in Poway, California that took the life of a 60 year-old woman and wounded two others.

Anti-Jewish crimes were followed by those targeting Muslims (7%) and Catholics (2%). There were also single crimes targeting Christians, Mormons, and Scientologists. There was also a case in which white supremacists committed aggravated assaults against four Somali victims who were part of a Muslim youth camp. Because of the nature of the slurs, these crimes were classified as racially-motivated.

Highest Rate of Violence in 14 Years

Nearly a third (32%) of religious hate crimes were of a violent nature, compared to 25% the previous year. Historically, crimes motivated by religion have been overwhelmingly acts of vandalism against property. The rate of violence for religious crimes in 2019 was the highest since 2005. Fifty-five percent of religious hate crimes were acts of vandalism, followed by intimidation (18%), disorderly conduct (10%), simple assaults (9%) and aggravated assaults (4%). Acts of intimidation more than doubled from 9 to 19 and cases of disorderly conduct grew 83% from 6 to 11.

Religious Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense



The rate of violence in anti-Jewish crimes was 29% which was also the highest percentage since 2005.

As in previous years, there were several cases of anti-Christian vandalism that included Satanic symbols. For example, a church-run school was vandalized and “666” and a pentagram were drawn on the property. It is impossible to know from the available information if the perpetrators were actually Satanists or simply malicious pranksters.

Nearly Half of Religious Crimes Reflect White Supremacist Ideology

Religious crimes in which there was evidence of white supremacist ideology (most frequently the use of swastikas) rose from 47 to 49 but declined as a percentage from 49% to 47%.

Victims and Suspects are Mostly White

Many religious crimes do not have individual victims because the suspects target religious congregations, organizations, schools, or public property. In crimes committed against individuals the largest number of victims of religious-motivated hate crimes were white (79%, down from 82%), followed by Middle Easterner and Asians (8% each). There were single crimes in which the victims were African Americans or Latino/as.

Because so many religious crimes are acts of vandalism or displays of swastikas* few suspects are identified. In those cases in which a suspect was seen by a victim or witness or filmed by a surveillance camera, 64% of the suspects were white, followed by blacks and Latino/as (14% each) and there were lone crimes committed by Middle Eastern and Asian suspects. White victims were targeted by white suspects in about 2/3 (67%) of cases, followed by blacks (17%), Latino/as (11%) and Middle Easterners (6%).

Crimes at Religious Sites Grow

The largest portion of religious crimes took place at religious sites (26%) and these crimes rose 69% from 16 to 27. These were followed by crimes that occurred in public places (25%), schools (16%), residences and businesses (13% each), and via electronic communication (6%). This represented a growth in the number of religious crimes taking place in religious sites, businesses, and public places and a significant drop in those occurring at residences.

Three Quarters of Religious Crimes Occur in City of Los Angeles

The overwhelming majority (75%) of religious crimes took place in the City of Los Angeles. The only other clusters of religious-motivated hate crimes were committed in the cities of Beverly Hills and Santa Monica.

*Displaying swastikas is not charged as vandalism when there is no damage to property.

Actual Religious Hate Crimes

March 5, Woodland Hills —A Jewish Community Center received a voice mail message from a man with a Middle Eastern accent that said, "I will kill every single Jew. Fucking Jews. I will kill every single Jew. I'm going to get you."

June 4, Santa Clarita —A Jewish woman told a tenant that he would have to move out of his apartment. The Latino male suspect pushed the victim, and told her, "Try it and see what happens to your niece." The suspect then fashioned a noose out of a black cord and stated, "This is for you, you fucking Jew bitch." The suspect has a history of alcohol abuse and abusive, anti-Semitic language.

June 27, Los Angeles —A Middle Eastern man was leaving a mosque when he was attacked by a stranger who struck the victim six times and yelled, "This is America! Go back to your country!" The victim was able to escape and call the police.

July 19, Tarzana—An Armenian suspect kicked and damaged glass door to a synagogue. The suspect yelled "Fuck the Jews!" Police took the suspect into custody.

July 20, Redondo Beach —Two Syrian men received a letter at their business that stated "(You) bring your filthy, immoral Muslim Jihad hate!...We know you are dishonest, cheat our community and want to be here for terrorism. You are being watched and listened to...be afraid...You're going to die." The letter was littered with slurs, such as "Sand Nigger" and "Camel jockey."

August 12, Pacific Palisades—A white supremacist with ties to the group Atomwaffen confronted a man and his infant daughter in a park, shouting, "Das Juden...You fucking piece of shit Jew...We are coming for your baby." The suspect threatened to return with a gun and shoot them.

December 15, West Los Angeles —A school campus was vandalized with swastikas that were painted on a table and on the ground. The school auditorium has been used as a synagogue where Jewish congregations have met.

A Closer Look at Gender Hate Crimes

There were 43 hate crimes motivated by the victims' gender or gender identity. Forty of the crimes were anti-transgender and 3 were anti-female.

Largest Number of Anti-Transgender Hate Crimes Reported Ever

There were 40 hate crimes motivated by anti-transgender bias reported in 2019 compared to 25 the previous year. Twenty-nine of the crimes (73%) targeted transgender women, 4 (10%) targeted transmen and 5 (13%) of the victims were cis-gender men* who were attacked for being in the company of transgender persons. There was a case in which the gender identity was not clear in the police report. Finally, there was one case of graffiti at a public park which ridiculed transgender people in general.

High Rate of Violence

As in the past, anti-transgender crimes had an extremely high rate of violence, 93% compared to 92% the previous year. The most common criminal offense was simple assault (40%), followed by aggravated assault (25%), intimidation (20%) and vandalism (8%). The distribution of criminal offenses was similar to the previous year except that acts of intimidation tripled from 2 to 6.

Great Majority Occur in Public Places

The great majority of anti-transgender crimes occurred in public places (72%), followed by residences (14%), and businesses (8%). This represented a huge jump of these crimes in public places which more than doubled from 12 to 26 and a drop in those that occurred in businesses from 6 to 3.

Latino/a Victims More than Double

In cases where the victim's race was identified, 65% were Latino/a (up from 48%), 22% were white and 14% were black. The numbers of white and black victims were similar to the previous year but they declined as a percentage of the total because Latino victims more than doubled from 11 to 24. In cases where suspects were identified, 44% were Latino/a, 38% were black, and 18% were white. This was a similar pattern as the previous year. In cases in which the race of both the victim and suspect were identified, 70% of Latino/a victims were attacked by other Latino/as, followed by blacks (22%) and whites (9%). White victims were most often targeted by blacks (56%), followed by Latinos (33%) and whites 11%. There were equal numbers of black, Latino/a and white suspects in cases in which the victims were black.

Suspects are Overwhelmingly Male Strangers

Similar to the previous year, the overwhelming majority of the suspects (80%) were male. The great majority of the suspects were complete strangers to the victims. However, there were also cases in which a victim was attacked by a neighbor, and another in which the suspect was a classmate.

*A person whose sense of personal identity and gender corresponds with their birth sex.

Actual Anti-Female Hate Crimes

There was 1 hate crime motivated solely by gender and a multiple-motivation case with 2 victims.

- A Latino male suspect confronted a middle-aged Latina victim and shouted in Spanish, "I hate all women! They should all be dead!" He then produced a sharp object and attempted to slash her face. The victim raised her arms to protect her face and the suspect slashed her in the leg causing a 3-inch laceration. The suspect then fled.
- A white male motorist who repeatedly struck a car occupied by 2 black females which was classified as an assault with a deadly weapon. He accused them of driving too slowly while repeatedly yelling anti-black and vulgar anti-female slurs.

Actual Anti-Transgender Hate Crimes

September 5, DTLA—Two young Latino male suspects approached a middle-aged transgender woman and asked her for a quarter. The victim overheard the suspects refer to her a "joto" (faggot) in Spanish. She asked them not to use offensive language. One of the suspects punched her in the face. After the victim fell to the ground the suspect continued to attack her, yelling, "Yo odio putos y homosexuales" (I hate fags and homosexuals). The second yelled, "Grab the purse and let's go," and the suspects fled after robbing her.

October 1, Sherman Oaks—A disabled white transwoman in a wheelchair was waiting for a bus. A black male yelled "faggot" and "Peckerwood" at the victim. He grabbed the victim's wig and threw it into the street and then struck her in the back of her head. The victim called police but the suspect fled before they arrived.

October 20, MacArthur Park—A Latino transgender male was standing with a friend outside of a convenience store. A Latino male suspect exited the store and began loading purchases in his vehicle. The suspect realized that victim was a transman and started speaking to the victim in English. The victim did not fully understand but perceived that he was being targeted for his gender identity based on the few words he could comprehend and the suspect's angry demeanor. The suspect started to drive away but returned shortly holding a handgun. Fearful, the victim ran into the store with the suspect in pursuit. The suspect pointed the gun at the victim's head and yelled, "Fucking faggot," and then kicked him in his upper chest. The suspect then fled in his vehicle. Fortunately, the victim photographed his license plate which led to his arrest.

A Closer Look at Disability Hate Crimes

There were 3 hate crimes motivated by the victims' disability reported in 2019, compared to none the previous year. Two of the crimes were solely motivated by the victim's disability and 1 had multiple motivations.

Actual Disability Hate Crimes

- A Latino male suspect kicked the side of a wheelchair occupied by a disabled black man who was exiting a Metro elevator. The victim fell to the ground and the suspect said, "That's what you get, you cripple."
- A Latino male victim was in a store when a black male suspect approached him and ridiculed him for having deformed feet. The suspect tried to take pictures of the victim's feet with his mobile phone. When the victim asked him to leave him alone the suspect struck him repeatedly with his fist.
- A white male victim was socializing with two female friends at their apartment. An intoxicated black male guest started sexually harassing one of the females who asked him to leave. Angered, the suspect punched the victim and used derogatory slurs to mock him for being bisexual and having Asperger Syndrome.

Hate Crime Prosecutions

The District Attorney's Office handles the great majority of hate crime prosecutions in Los Angeles County. In 2019, 68 hate crime cases were referred to the District Attorney. Prosecutors filed charges in 64 of those cases. Of those, 60 adult defendants and four juveniles were charged with hate crime enhancements. This does not include cases that were referred to the District Attorney and then were referred to the Los Angeles City Attorney or other cities with criminal prosecutors on staff.

Forty-five adults were charged with felony hate crimes and 15 were charged with misdemeanors. The largest number of defendants (41) were charged with crimes motivated by race or ethnicity, followed by sexual orientation (12), and religion (4). There were also three defendants charged with felony hate crimes with multiple motivations. There was no information about the four juveniles charged with hate crime because those records are confidential.

Forty-seven hate crime cases were referred to the L.A. City Attorney's Office in 2019. Race/ethnicity/nationality was the most common motivation (22), followed by sexual orientation (13), religion (11) and disability (1). All of the defendants were adults as the L.A. City Attorney has no jurisdiction to prosecute juveniles. Criminal charges were filed in 23 of those cases but the defendants were only prosecuted for the underlying criminal conduct (e.g., vandalism, simple assault) and did not include hate crime charges.

Review of 2019–2020 Hate Crime Legislation

California State Legislation 2019 – 2020 Legislative Session

Assembly Bill 1775 (Jones-Sawyer: D-59) False Reports and Harassment

Introduced: April 9, 2019.

Bill Summary: This bill would provide that intimidation by threat of violence includes knowingly or recklessly making or threatening to make a false claim or report to a peace officer or law enforcement agency alleging that another person has engaged in unlawful activity or in an activity that requires law enforcement intervention. The bill would also provide that if a person knowingly allows the use of or uses the 911 emergency system for the purpose of harassing a person and that act is a hate crime or other, specified crime committed against another person on the basis of the other person's actual or perceived characteristics, including race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation, the crime would be a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in a county jail, a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$2,000, or both that imprisonment and fine.

Status: Passed both houses September 4, 2020.

Assembly Bill 1548 (Jesse Gabriel: D-45) California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program

Introduced: February 22, 2019.

Bill Summary: This bill would establish the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program under the administration of the director to improve the physical security of nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of violent attacks or hate crimes due to ideology, beliefs, or mission, as specified. The bill would make the operation of the program contingent upon an appropriation for these purposes in the annual Budget Act.

Status: Approved by the Governor October 11, 2019.

Assembly Bill 1052 (Kansen Chu: D-25) Peace Officer Training: Hate Crimes

Introduced: February 21, 2019

Bill Summary: Requires the basic course curriculum on the topic of hate crimes to include the viewing of a specified video course developed by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). Requires POST to make the video available via the online learning portal and would require all peace officers to view the video no later than January 1, 2021. Requires POST to develop and periodically update an interactive refresher course on hate crimes for in-service peace officers.

Status: Held under submission (August 30, 2019).

Federal Legislation 117th Congress

HR 3536 (Rep. Don Bacon: R-NE) Justice for Victims of Lynching Act of 2019

Introduced: June 27, 2019

Bill Summary: To amend title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a deprivation of civil rights, and for other purposes.

Status: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary – Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, July 30, 2019.

S 488 (Sen. Kamala D. Harris: D-CA) Justice for Victims of Lynching Act of 2019

Introduced: February 14, 2019

Bill Summary: This is a companion bill to HR 3536.

Status: Passed in the Senate by Voice Vote, February 14, 2019; Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary – Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, March 22, 2019.

Methodology

The 2019 Hate Crime Report provides a statistical snapshot of reported hate crimes to inform efforts to combat bias-motivated activity. Such data collection and analysis provide policy-makers and practitioners insight into the urgent issues and greatest needs for education, prevention, intervention, victim assistance, and advocacy. The Commission receives reports from law enforcement, school districts and universities, community-based organizations, and directly from victims. We carefully eliminate any duplicates, such as a hate crime submitted by both a law enforcement agency and a school district. We review each case and include in this report those that meet the criteria of the legal definition of hate crime in the California penal code. *Those that do not meet that standard are not included as hate crimes in this report. Nevertheless, we encourage law enforcement and community organizations to report hate incidents because they can be early indicators of intergroup tension and conflict.* From the 850 reports of hate events (both crimes and incidents) received for 2019, 446 events involving 524 victims were found to have met the legal criteria for hate crimes and are included in this report. Unless otherwise noted, all numbers in the report refer to victims, rather than cases.

Understanding the Numbers

- If a violent crime is committed against multiple victims, each victim is counted separately.
- We report the perpetrators' intended target group instead of relying on the actual identity of the victim as a proxy. This accounts for cases in which the actual identities of the victims are not specified or where the victim's identity is mistaken (e.g., when a Latino victim is perceived by the perpetrator as African-American).
- A handful of cases involved epithets targeting more than 1 group. Therefore, the total number of cases by motivation or by targeted group actually exceeds the 524 hate crimes for 2019. We also received a small number of reports, usually minor vandalism, in which the information provided in a law enforcement agency's report was too minimal to determine specific bias motivation and targeted group. In these cases the motivation and targeted group are deemed "unknown."
- It is important to note that fluctuations in data from one year to the next do not necessarily indicate trends. Sometimes, an increase one year follows a notable decrease the previous year. Multi-year data provide a better sense of trends.
- The report may not reflect the actual outcome of the investigation of individual cases. We receive the original police incident report for cases in which the investigation may be ongoing. We may review it and include it before the investigation is completed or charges are filed. Therefore, the number of hate crimes reported here may differ from the reporting law enforcement agency for a given jurisdiction.
- Some numbers referring to hate crimes committed in 2018 have changed since last year's report due to an ongoing process of updates and corrections.

Los Angeles County Service Planning Areas



Map by Juan Carlos Martinez

Hate Crimes by Service Planning Area (SPA)

Name	Partial Listing of Cities and Areas	*2019 Population	2019 Hate Crimes	2019 Hate Crimes per 100,000 residents
Region I: Antelope Valley SPA	All of the Antelope Valley, including Acton, Gorman, Lancaster, Palmdale, Quartz Hill, Littlerock, Lake Los Angeles	397,272	21	5.3
Region II: San Fernando Valley SPA	All of the San Fernando Valley, including Burbank, Glendale, Newhall, Northridge, San Fernando, Santa Clarita, Val Verde, Westlake Village, East & West Valley areas	2,248,311	95	4.2
Region III: San Gabriel Valley SPA	All of the San Gabriel Valley, including Alhambra, Altadena, Irwindale, La Puente, Pasadena, Pomona, El Monte, Azusa, San Dimas	1,814,459	28	1.5
Region IV: Metro SPA	Atwater, Boyle Heights, Downtown, Eagle Rock, Echo Park, Glassell Park, Hancock Park, Koreatown, Hollywood, Park La Brea, West Hollywood, Silverlake	1,191,772	124	10.4
Region V: West SPA	Beverly Hills, Culver City, Malibu, Marina del Rey, Pacific Palisades, Playa del Rey, Santa Monica, Venice, Westchester	667,220	52	7.8
Region VI: South SPA	Compton, Florence, Lynwood, South Los Angeles, Watts	1,050,698	55	5.2
Region VII: East SPA	Vernon, Maywood, Huntington Park, Bellflower, South Gate, Lakewood, Hawaiian Gardens, Signal Hill, Montebello, Pico Rivera, Cerritos, La Mirada, Whittier, La Habra	1,320,945	16	1.2
Region VIII: South Bay SPA	Inglewood, Torrance, Long Beach, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, San Pedro	1,569,560	28	1.8

*2019 population estimate data source is ISD Urban Research.

Reporting Agencies

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Los Angeles Police Department
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
California Highway Patrol
Alhambra Police Department
Arcadia Police Department
Azusa Police Department
Baldwin Park Police Department
Bell Police Department
Bell Gardens Police Department
Beverly Hills Police Department
Burbank Police Department
Claremont Police Department
Covina Police Department
Culver City Police Department
Downey Police Department
El Monte Police Department
El Segundo Police Department
Gardena Police Department
Glendale Police Department
Glendora Police Department
Hawthorne Police Department
Hermosa Beach Police Department
Huntington Park Police Department
Inglewood Police Department
Irwindale Police Department
La Verne Police Department
Long Beach Police Department
Manhattan Beach Police Department
Monrovia Police Department
Montebello Police Department
Monterey Park Police Department
Palos Verdes Estates Police Department
Pasadena Police Department
Pomona Police Department
Redondo Beach Police Department
San Fernando Police Department
San Gabriel Police Department
San Marino Police Department
Santa Fe Springs Police Department

Santa Monica Police Department
Sierra Madre Police Department
Signal Hill Police Department
South Gate Police Department
South Pasadena Police Department
Torrance Police Department
Vernon Police Department
West Covina Police Department
Whittier Police Department

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Azusa Unified School District
Bellflower Unified School District
Castaic Union School District
Claremont Unified School District
Culver City Unified School District
Downey Unified School District
El Monte Union High School District
Glendale Unified School District
La Cañada Unified School District
Lancaster School District
Los Angeles Unified School District
Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District
Paramount Unified School District
Temple City Unified School District

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

California State University, Dominguez Hills
Citrus College
College of the Canyons
University of California, Los Angeles
University of Southern California

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Anti-Defamation League
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-LA
Council on American-Islamic Relations
L.A. LGBT Center

Acknowledgements

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Hate Crime Report Team

Robin S. Toma, Executive Director
 Robert Sowell, Assistant Executive Director
 Monica Lomeli, Data Analyst
 Marshall Wong, Team Leader and Principal Author

Additional Report Analysts

Pierre Arreola
 Kendra Humphreys
 Kevin Medina
 Gustavo Partida
 Richard Salazar
 Clifton Trotter

Hate Crime Report Support Staff

Sharon Williams

Prosecution Data Contributors

Richard Kraft of the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office
 Melissa Toles of the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office
 Bruce Riordan of the U.S. Attorney's Office

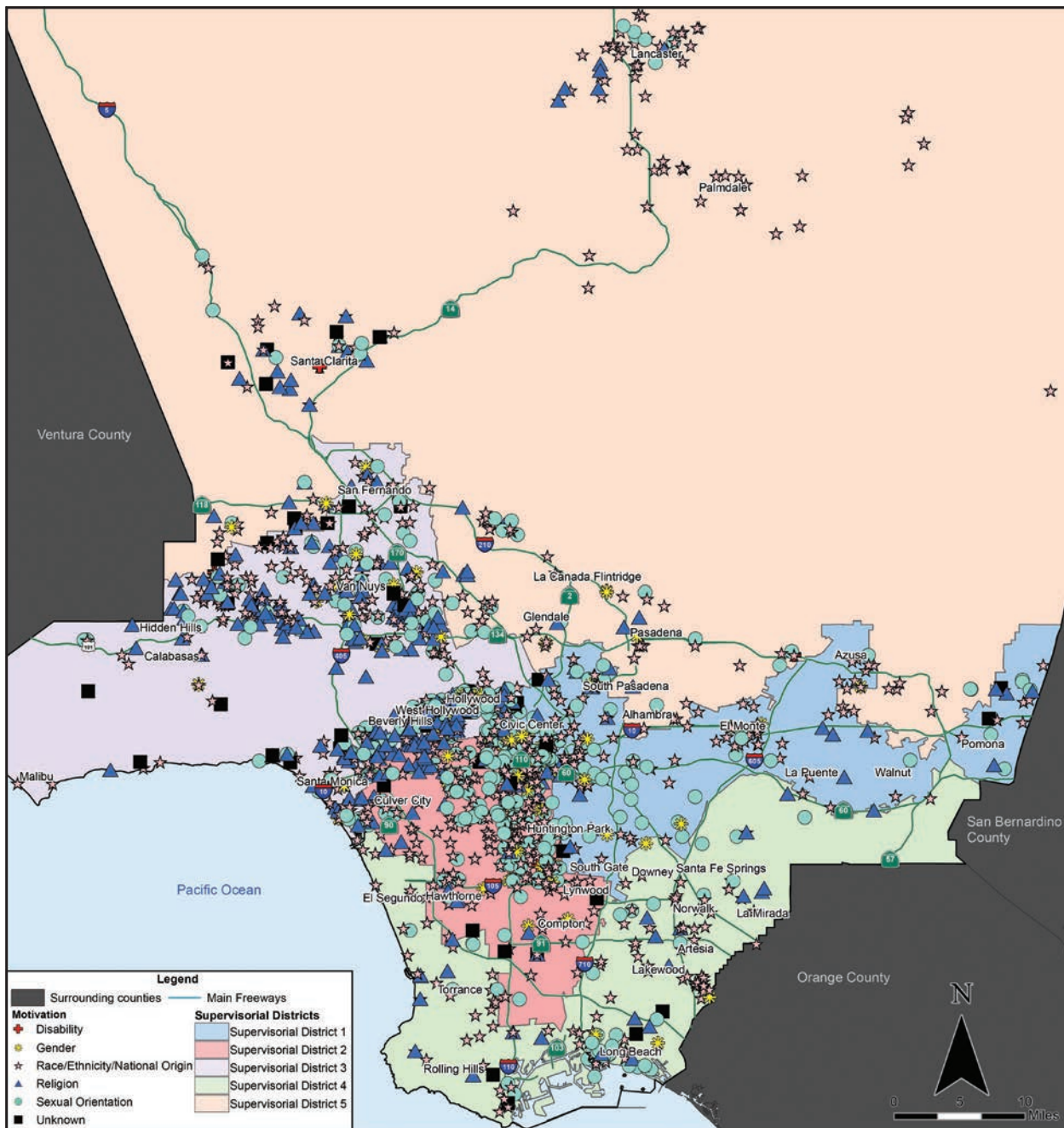
Cover concept and graphic design

Roberto San Luis

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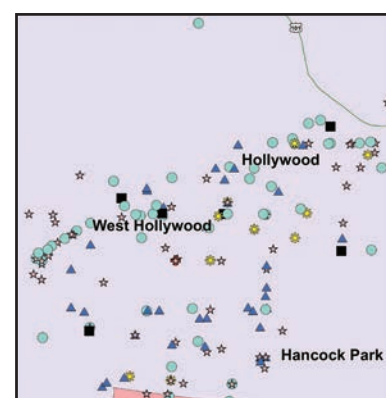
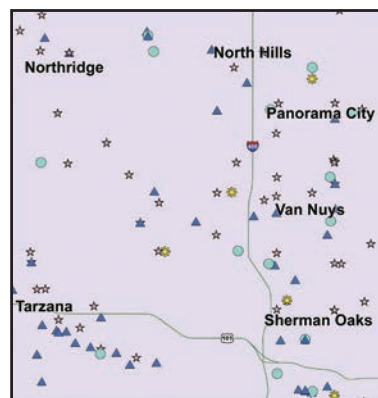
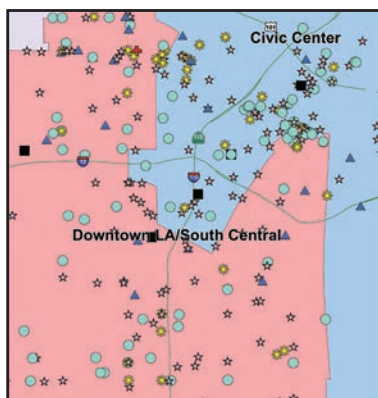
2015-2019 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes



Central/South Central L.A.

San Fernando Valley

Hollywood/West Hollywood



In addition to the hate crimes shown on these maps, there are crimes that are not displayed due to insufficient address information.

Maps by Florentino Bernal Jr.



wdacs
workforce development
aging & community services



2019 Hate Crime Report

Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

www.LAHumanRelations.org